Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-081
Thursday
29 April 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-081 *29 April 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Ninth Round of Arab-Israeli Talks Continue in U.S. 1
'Conflicting' Statements on Session *[Amman Radio]* 1
Palestinians 'Realistic' in Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Syria's al-'Allaf Comments *[SANA]* 1
Agreement on Return of 30 Deportees *[Jerusalem TV]* 2
Names of Deportees Listed *[Amman Radio]* 2
Al-'Allaf 'Anxious' After Second Day *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Family Reunification Steps Implemented *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
U.S. Calls For Continuing Negotiations *[Amman Radio]* 3
Lebanon's Shammas Views Discussions *[Beirut Radio]* 4
U.S. Working To Bridge Gaps With Syria *[DAVAR 29 Apr]* 4

Islamic Affairs

Further Reportage on 21st ICO Conference in Karachi 4
Stronger Security Cooperation Urged *[Islamabad International]* 4
Deliberations, Delegates' Remarks Reported *[Islamabad TV]* 4
Bosnia Thanks Saudis for Support *[SPA]* 5
Saudi Envoy Meets Pakistani Leader *[SPA]* 5
Libyan Envoy Meets Other Foreign Ministers *[JANA]* 6
Iranian Human Rights Resolution Approved *[Tehran Radio]* 6
Pakistani Envoy on Foreign Ministers Meeting *[Islamabad TV]* 6
Philippine President Hails ICO Support for Peace Process *[Manila Radio]* 7
ECO Holds Meeting on Combating Drug Trafficking *[IRNA]* 7

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Leaders, Media Divided on Merit of Talks 7
Opposition Calls For PNC Session *[AL-NAHAR 28 Apr]* 7
ALF Urges Withdrawal From Talks *[INA]* 7
PFLP-GC Statement on Strike *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 8
PLO Official Withdraws From Team *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Apr]* 9
PLO's 'Abbas on Decision To Negotiate *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 26 Apr]* 9
PLO's Abu-Sharif on Resumed Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
Abu-Sharif Views U.S. Role *[Cairo International]* 12
'Arafat Adviser on Return to Talks *[Nouakchott Radio]* 13
U.S. Urged To Become Full Partner *[Algiers VOP]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Gunmen Assassinate Municipal Official 28 Apr *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Gendarmerie Successes Against 'Terrorist Groups' *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Higher State Council, FLN Delegation Meet 28 Apr *[Algiers TV]* 15

Egypt

Bombing Suspect 'Tortured' by U.S. Authorities *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 26 Apr]* 15
'Extremists' Given Orders To Overthrow Regime *[AL-WAFD 25 Apr]* 15
Committee Denounces Sudan Plot Accusation *[MENA]* 16
Large Antiterror Demonstration in Abu Tij 28 Apr *[AFP]* 16
Algerian Minister Arrives for Cooperation Talks *[MENA]* 16
Mubarak Congratulates Eritrea Leader on Independence *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Ministry Official Cited on Debt Rescheduling *[MENA]* 17

Libya

Meeting With Germany Discusses Economic Cooperation *[Tripoli TV]* 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yemeni President's Message *[JANA]* 17

Sudan

Report on Second Round Peace Talks in Abuja *[Kaduna Radio]* 17
Ummah Party's al-Mahdi Denies Coup Plot Allegations
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Apr] 17
Al-Bashir Congratulates Eritreans on Independence *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Energy Minister Meets French Oil Company Official *[Omdurman Radio]* 18

Tunisia

'Arafat Discusses Political Developments With Ben Ali *[Algiers Radio]* 18
FRG President Weizsaecker Begins Tunisia Visit *[Tunis Radio]* 19
Discusses Ties Ben Ali *[Tunis TV]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Collaborators Inside Kuwait Implicated in Bush Plot *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Apr]* .. 20
Names, Nationalities of Saboteurs *[KUNA]* 20
American Oil Worker Reported Missing Along Iraqi Border *[AFP]* 20
Military Source Says No Iraqi Troops Across Border *[MENA]* 20
Kuwaiti, Iranian Unions Criticize Saddam in Statement *[KUNA]* 21

Oman

Communications Agreement Signed With Iran *[IRNA]* 21
Deputy Prime Minister Confers With Iranian Minister *[WAKH]* 21

United Arab Emirates

* Fire Raises Fears About Extremism *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Apr]* 21
Egyptian Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi *[Cairo Radio]* 22

Yemen

'Initial Results' of Parliamentary Elections Reported *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 22
Observers Laud 'Free' Elections *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Vice President Views Tasks Facing New Parliament *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Former President Comments on Elections, Politics *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Apr]* 23

IRAQ

Opposition Meets With Gore; Barzani Comments *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 25
Resistance Claims Killing 77 in Operation in South *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 25
Iranian Diplomat Summoned Over 26 Apr Shelling *[INA]* 25

Envoy, Arab League Chief View Embargo *[INA]* 26
Saddam's Birthday Celebrated in Hometown Military Parade *[AFP]* 26
Further on Birthday Celebration *[INA]* 26
Saddam Receives Cable From Jordan *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
'Fourth Part' of Saddam's al-Faw Meeting *[AL-THAWRAH 23 Apr]* 27
Saddam's Brother Asks People To Be 'Optimistic,' 'Patient' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 20 Apr]* 41

ISRAEL

Rabin Cancels Deportation for 30 Veteran Deportees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Denies Commitment for More Steps *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 43
Move Seen as Low-Cost 'Gesture' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Apr]* 43
Peres—No Change in Territories' Status Under Autonomy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Peres Says Peace Mainly 'Our Decision' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Rabinovich, Others Discuss Peace Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 44
Police Minister on Creation of Palestinian Force *[Jerusalem TV]* 46
Paper Hails U.S. Envoy's Departure, Urges Ex-Envoy's Return *[DAVAR 29 Apr]* 47
15 Detained Following 'Violent' Right-Wing Demonstration *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Three Dead, Several Injured in 28 Apr Incidents *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 48
IDF Presence at Crossing Reinforced Due to Sit-In *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
New Aircraft Navigation System Unveiled *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Apr]* 48
Military, Aircraft Industries Register Losses in 1992 *[HADASHOT 23 Apr]* 49
Correction to Christopher Remarks Viewed 49

LEBANON

Buwayz Receives Message From Christopher *[RFL]* 50
Deportees' Statements on Sit-In, Peace Talks 50
Palestinian Delegation Attacked *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 50
Return of 'Old Deportees' Derided *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 50
Al-Rantisi News Conference *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 51
Sit-In Extended *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 51
Army Fires at Israeli Warplanes Over Sidon *[Beirut Radio]* 52
Overflights Continue *[Beirut Radio]* 52
Reportage on Visits by Chinese, Czech Delegations 52
Economy Minister Discusses Ties *[Beirut Radio]* 52
Al-Hirawi Receives Chinese Team *[Beirut Radio]* 52
Sudanese Minister: Training Occurred Two Years Ago *[Beirut Radio]* 52

SYRIA

Peace Talks Delegation Head Views U.S. 'Full Partner' Role *[AL-SAFIR 22 Apr]* 53
Ninth Round Peace Talks Called Test for Israel, U.S. *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Press: Nothing New in Israeli Position *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Press Urges U.S. 'Intervention' To Save Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 55

SOUTH ASIA

India

Chavan: No Breaking Ties With Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Further on Policemen's 'Revolt' in Kashmir 57
2,000 Released *[AFP]* 57
Curfew Lifted *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Rao: Defense Policy Not 'Aggressive' *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Commentary Welcomes Rao Assurances on Defense *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Chavan: Security for Officials Inadequate *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Smuggled Explosives in Bombay Blasts *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Terrorist Prevention Act Extended Until 1995 *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Criminal Procedures Amendment Bill Adopted *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Six Seriously Injured in West Bengal Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 59

Foreign Investment Proposals Cleared *[Delhi Radio]* 59

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni on Presidential Election *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Majles Speaker Discusses Election Participation *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Reportage on Naval Maneuvers in Gulf 60
'Global Arrogance' Condemned *[IRNA]* 60
Exercises Continue 29 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Several Said Killed in Sardasht Blast 24 Apr *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 60
Khamene'i Addresses Hajj Organizers, Criticizes Egypt *[Tehran Radio]* 61
President Warns Against 'Divisive Issues' *[Tehran TV]* 62
President Addresses IPO Officials *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Khomeyni Warns Against 'Cultural Onslaught' *[Tehran Radio]* 64
• SALAM Accused of Being Antirevolutionary *[London KEYHAN 8 Apr]* 64
• SALAM Attacked for Eulogizing Mosadeq *[London KEYHAN 15 Apr]* 65
• Rivalry on Possible Merging of Ministries *[London KEYHAN 8 Apr]* 65
• MOK Denies Ties to Babak-e Khorramdin *[London KEYHAN 8 Apr]* 65
• Montazeri's Followers Accused of Amassing Weapons *[London KEYHAN 15 Apr]* 66
• Commentary on Attack on Montazeri's Home *[London KEYHAN 15 Apr]* 66
Deputy: Maritime Law No Threat to Neighbors *[IRNA]* 67
Iranian Troops Reported '5 Km Inside' Iraq *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 68
• Commentary on Ideological War With Turkey *[London KEYHAN 8 Apr]* 68

Pakistan

Sharif Escapes Assassination Attempt in Peshawar *[THE NATION 28 Apr]* 70
Sharif Calls For President's Resignation *[AFP]* 70
Corp Commanders Hold Emergency Meeting 29 Apr *[THE MUSLIM 28 Apr]* 71
Bhuttos, Mazari Discuss Situation, Future *[Islamabad TV]* 72
Wattoo Says Change Through Democratic Means *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Khan-Sharif 'Confrontation' Viewed *[JANG 28 Apr]* 72
Election of Muslim League President Postponed *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Hasan Shah Sworn In as Chief Justice *[Islamabad International]* 73
Zaki: No Terrorist State Label for Pakistan *[THE FRONTIER POST 28 Apr]* 73
'Terrorist' Label Challenged *[THE MUSLIM 28 Apr]* 74
New State of Eritrea Recognized *[Islamabad Radio]* 74
Chinese Delegation Meets Environment Minister *[Islamabad TV]* 74

Sri Lanka

Violence Precedes Opposition Leader's Funeral *[AFP]* 74
Curfew Imposed in Colombo *[AFP]* 75
Soldiers Patrol Streets *[AFP]* 75
UNHCR To Mediate in LTTE, Government Fighting *[Colombo International]* 76

Arab-Israeli Talks

Ninth Round of Arab-Israeli Talks Continue in U.S.

'Conflicting' Statements on Session

JN2804144893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] At the newest round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, a working session will be held today to discuss issues pertaining to all four tracks of the negotiations. Today's meeting is expected to be more specific than last night's session, which was viewed as the beginning of the new round of negotiations as it reviewed the topics and different views that were considered in previous rounds.

Conflicting statements were made last night by the heads of delegations and their spokesmen on issued discussed during yesterday's session.

Following the working session on the Jordanian-Israeli track, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, stressed Jordan's rejection of any unilateral settlement. He said that no progress would be made on the Jordanian-Israeli track unless similar progress was made on the other tracks.

As for the Palestinian-Israeli track, reports indicate that the Israeli side proposed details of the issues and ideas that were discussed during previous rounds. Pointing to these proposals, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that the Israelis had not offered any new proposals. He said: We have posed specific questions to the Israelis, and we will wait in the hope that we will receive answers soon. However, he did not give any details of the questions.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, said that the Israelis presented their concept of the new round of negotiations, as well as general principles and specific issues, particularly the situation in the occupied territories. He added that the negotiations should now take a serious course.

Following a three-hour session, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, stated that the talks had not achieved any progress, while Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli working team, pointed to a change in tone, and told reporters: We have listened to the expression of total withdrawal and, for the first time, to the expression of total peace which was repeated several times.

Regarding the meeting of Lebanese and Israeli delegations, we can say that it was brief. Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, described it as very positive nonetheless.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last night received all the heads of the delegations participating in the negotiations. It was the first time U.S. officials have received all the heads of the delegations taking part in the negotiations since the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference in 1991.

An Arab diplomatic source stressed in a statement to AFP that the meeting with Christopher constituted a shift in U.S. policy, and said: The new administration appears to be more effective in the peace process than the previous one.

An informed Palestinian source said today that the Palestinian negotiating team received from the Americans in Washington last night a list of names of 30 Palestinians expelled between 1967 and 1987, whom Israel has agreed to take back. The same source added that the Palestinians did not give their final approval to that list, saying that consultations were under way and that the Palestinians were insisting on adding other names to the list.

Palestinians 'Realistic' in Talks

LD2804185093 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1702 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation, sister Hanan 'Ashrawi, announced yesterday that Palestinians are realistic and are determined to deal with all issues related to the negotiations. This came after a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian which was attended by head of the [Palestinian] delegation Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi as well as Faysal al-Husayni and Nabil Qassis. She said they discussed the Palestinian demands, the substance of the negotiations, and the mechanism that must be endorsed to make the negotiations successful.

She added in a statement to correspondents that the Palestinian delegation considered these negotiations a phase to test the vows and promises that were given to the Palestinians. She said the delegation took a gamble by coming in the hopes of having these promises carried out.

Syria's al-'Allaf Comments

JN2804175693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 28 Apr (SANA)—Arab delegations to the peace talks held their second meeting with the Israeli side today as part of the ninth round. No change in the Israeli position was noticed on the first day.

Prior to today's meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, reasserted that the beginning was not encouraging.

Asked about yesterday's meeting of the heads of delegations with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in the presence of a representative of the Russian cosponsor of the talks, and whether he had noticed a U.S. willingness to make proposals to free the talks from the current impasse, al-'Allaf said: I do not know what the U.S. and Russian cosponsors of the talks are going to do. However, we feel that the idea of the meeting is good. This is

the first time since the Madrid conference that all parties have met with the sponsors. I also do not know whether the purpose of this meeting was to remind everybody that the sponsors will seek to meet with all parties when there are difficulties in an effort to help overcome them, he said.

Al-'Allaf added: If difficulties persist and there is no change in Israel's position—which precluded progress throughout the past eight rounds—I hope that, in light of yesterday's discouraging beginning, we will have similar meetings to help overcome difficulties.

The Arab delegations participating in the talks held a coordination meeting yesterday at the residence of Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation.

During the meeting, which is usually held by Arab delegations at the beginning of each round, the delegates discussed the results of the first day of the ninth round and coordinated stands for the coming meetings of this round.

Agreement on Return of 30 Deportees

TA2804191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Ya'ir Stern]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At a news conference in their hotel about an hour ago, the Palestinians announced the agreement concerning the return of 30 old-time deportees. The agreement was the result of talks between President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin.

[Begin Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi recording, in English] This morning we have received a list of 30 returnees, Palestinians who were exiled from 1967, the first 20 years of occupation. This list we consider as the first installment, or the first group of returnees, and we are still pursuing additional names to be added to this list. We hope to be able to return the exiles as soon as possible. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 28 April reports that "Israel refused to include five deportees who are senior PLO members in the list of deportees it will permit to return to the territories. The five men are Muhammad Milhim, the former mayor of Halhul; Marwan Barghuthi, Akram Haniyah, who is now an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat; Khalil 'Ashur, and Amin Maqbul. This was reported to our correspondent by sources in East Jerusalem who are close to the Palestinian delegation. The sources asserted that due to an argument over these five deportees, the announcement on the return of the deportees was put off from yesterday to this evening. The sources said that the list published this evening would include 30 deportees, two from the Gaza Strip and the rest from Judaea and Samaria."]

Names of Deportees Listed

JN2804118293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said in Washington this evening that she had received a list of 30 Palestinians deported from the occupied territories since 1967. Israel has decided to allow these deportees to return home. 'Ashrawi added that these deportees will return home in groups, each comprising six people, over the next 48 hours. She indicated that the Palestinian delegation will continue its pressure for the repatriation of more deportees. 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation still advocates quick repatriation of the Palestinians deported by Israel to southern Lebanon last December.

The following is a list of these deportees' names, as announced by the Palestinian delegation: Rawhi al-Khatib, 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, Na'im al-Ashhab, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, Hanna Nasir, 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Hadi, Fa'iq Warrad, Mahmud Shuqayr, Hasan 'Abd-al-Jawad, Mustafa Milhim, Faysal Kan'an, Walid Qamhawi, Dawud 'Urayqat, 'Adli Dallal, Rushdi Shahin, 'Adnan al-Bakri, Kamal al-Dajani, Khalil al-Sawahiri, 'Abdallah al-Siryani, Mahmud Hammad, Musa al-Shakhshir, Amin Hasan 'Awdah, Sahab Shahin, Ibrahim Abu-Jarad, Mahmud al-Masiri, Badi' al-Yaziji, Mahmud al-Za'ri, Shakir Abu-Jamlah, and Samih Amin al-Nasr.

Al-'Allaf 'Anxious' After Second Day

JN2804210693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has announced that the second day of the ninth round of peace talks has not seen any change in the Israeli position.

Replying to journalists' questions following today's meeting, al-'Allaf said that unless such a change takes place in the Israeli position, which has prevented any meaningful progress in the peace process to date, the situation will remain a difficult one. He said: It is true that this round is still only in its second day, but I have begun to feel anxious because this round, as everyone knows, is decisive, especially since it marks a resumption after four months of suspension, which followed the disappointing results of previous rounds created by the Israeli practices.

Al-'Allaf added that unless greater efforts are exerted this time to obtain a different result, the peace process will be endangered. He said that today's discussions centered on the Syrian document, which is the only working paper in the talks and which stresses the firm bases of just and comprehensive peace based on total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He added: Discussions also touched on several points that were discussed in previous rounds, and tomorrow's talks will center on the

same document. It is worth noting that the Syrian document was presented during the sixth round of peace talks, garnered interest around the world, and was seen by the two cosponsors as an advanced step.

Al-'Allaf pointed out that a lengthy discussion took place during yesterday's meeting on statements made yesterday by Israeli spokesman Yosi Gal in which he said that Israel was ready to make a withdrawal from the Golan Heights [insihab dimn murtafa'at al-julan] to a secure and recognized border. Al-'Allaf added that the Israeli side was informed that such statements would not serve the spirit of the peace process, noting that Syria has repeatedly stressed that it will not accept less than total withdrawal from occupied Golan. Asked about Syria's position on continuing or prolonging the talks, al-'Allaf said that it is results which count and that time is not important. What is important is what we get from the talks. If we sit at the table for one or two months without results, then this will not be in favor of the peace process. He added that when signs of progress appear, the time factor will become secondary.

Family Reunification Steps Implemented

TA2904051393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] More than 5,000 Palestinians who reside outside the territories will be permitted to reunite with their families and to remain in the area of Judaea and Samaria this year. This will be done within the framework of facilitating measures which Israel is implementing vis-a-vis the Palestinians. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. In previous years, Palestinians who came to visit their families were required to leave the territories during September. This year it has been decided to allow them to remain.

During last night's round, Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, expressed Israel's willingness to transfer administrative and budgetary authorities in the areas of education, health, tourism, and manpower in the territories from the Civil Administration to the Palestinians. The Israeli delegation offered to the Palestinians to take responsibility for raising funds even before the negotiations on the establishment of self-rule in the territories are completed.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 April carries a report by Yerah Tal on page A3, adding: "One of the major Israeli gestures to the Palestinians is the expansion of the area in the West Bank that will be handed over to the Palestinian self-government. In practice, this step means expanding the autonomy boundaries beyond the scope Israel had offered to the Palestinians in the previous rounds of talks.

["Political sources in Jerusalem have said that Israel is willing to hand over some 60 percent of the West Bank territory to Palestinian management. Most of this territory is owned by the state."]

Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said in yesterday's meeting that the Palestinians find it hard to discuss the interim arrangement while Israel is creating facts on the ground that will impact on the permanent arrangement. 'Abd-al-Shafi continued to criticize the settlements in the territories, and the heads of the Israeli delegation reported to the American peace team that the Palestinians are continuing to deal with this issue instead of discussing self-rule. The U.S. representatives said that the Palestinian behavior is unacceptable.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 29 April carries a related report by Washington-based correspondent Connie Lonn, adding: "On the talks with the Jordanian delegation, delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein said the parties had a positive day. They are working on the substance of the negotiations and discussing a variety of specific issues. Substance was also the word with the Lebanese. Uri Lubrani called the atmosphere very constructive and businesslike. He said it will not be easy, and there is much to be done, but both sides are hopeful."]

U.S. Calls For Continuing Negotiations

JN2904060793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The sessions of the second day of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks ended in Washington after midnight. Reports say that there is increasing interest in the U.S. call for continued negotiations rather than rounds of talks, which is the method that has so far been followed. Details are in the following report.

The last session of the second day of the Arab-Israeli peace talks was the Palestinian-Israeli working session which began at 2300 Jordan local time and ended after midnight. After the session, the heads of the two delegations Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Elyaqim Rubinstein made only brief statements in which they said that the talks will resume today.

Prior to that, the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations ended their working session with the Israeli teams. In a statement yesterday, [Jordanian chief delegate] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that what has been achieved so far, especially between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, is very encouraging and provides an atmosphere of hope. As for the Syrian track of talks, Israeli delegation spokesman Yosi Gal said that the Syrian side agreed to continue work on drafting the joint statement of principles which was started during the seventh round of negotiations in October 1992. Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said that there have been no major changes in stands. On leaving the U.S. Department of State building on the second day of negotiations, al-'Allaf said that he did not notice any improvement in the Israeli stand, which has so far prevented real progress in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Shammas Views Discussions

NC2904062593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] After a session of talks between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, said: We discussed substantial issues with a view to addressing the problems. We explained our views and the Israelis explained theirs. We will continue this approach at today's meeting. Shammas added: What counts is asserting the fact: Our commitment to peace is serious and our credibility and desire to progress will dominate the talks. He went on: Several months have passed, but we hope they were not useless. The cause of peace will be furthered if we hasten the process.

U.S. Working To Bridge Gaps With Syria

TA2904075893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] The United States has begun working behind the scenes with Israel and Syria to help bridge the parties' stands and to break the deadlock that followed the Syrian demand for an Israeli commitment regarding a full withdrawal on the Golan and Israel's countermand that the Syrians elaborate on the nature of peace.

Remarks made by Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf at the opening of the talks on 27 April indicate that the United States has presented Syria with "theoretical" questions on what it would be willing to do in return for a full Israeli withdrawal on the Golan. Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli delegation head, asked al-'Allaf about the Syrian reply to that, but al-'Allaf avoided a direct answer and said: "We said many things."

Political sources in Israel said last night that over the past few days, the United States has presented both parties with a series of questions, asking them to "clarify" their stands in response to the other party's "theoretical" stands. The United States has also asked Israel to detail its "red lines" in the negotiations with the Syrians and the Palestinians.

The sources believe that through these questions, the Americans hope to bring the parties closer to simultaneous declarations regarding their willingness to reach a formula on withdrawal that is conditional on the scope of peace. Thus, if the Syrians express readiness to establish full peace, the United States would work to attain an Israeli commitment to recognize Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The United States will try to get the parties to issue a jointly worded statement regarding the principles of the arrangement without having to present its own papers. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Further Reportage on 21st ICO Conference in Karachi

Stronger Security Cooperation Urged

BK2804092093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general, Mr. Hamid al-Ghabid, has called for the ratification of security imbalances at the regional and subregional levels and making concerted efforts to resolve regional conflicts and disputes.

In a report to the ICO foreign ministers conference in Karachi, he said the process of confidence building measures initiated at these levels should be followed up by concrete steps to establish durable security. The ICO secretary general said the question of the proliferation of nuclear and mass destruction weapons as well as control of missiles should be dealt with effectively by the international community on a universal and non-discriminatory basis.

A report by the Group of Five set up by the ICO has called upon the Islamic foreign ministers to strengthen the security of small states and solidarity of Islamic ummah [community] by safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity. The report says that the security of each Islamic country is the concern of the entire Islamic ummah and in conformity with the collective security embodied in the UN Charter. It said a system for providing early warning about threats to the security of small states should be set up.

Deliberations, Delegates' Remarks Reported

BK2804154493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers continued their deliberations in Karachi, discussing ways and means for evolving a joint strategy to redress the problems faced by the Muslim ummah [community]. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen this afternoon that fruitful results are expected as a result of wide-ranging discussions. The foreign ministers continued general debate late last night. During three days of debate, the foreign ministers and delegates have emphasized that the ICO should play a more active role in safeguarding the solidarity, independence, and territorial integrity of the member-states. They have made useful suggestions on various burning issues, including Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Africa, the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, situation in Afghanistan, and terrorism. Besides Kashmir, the political committee have so far adopted a number of resolutions dealing with the situation in Afghanistan, Somalia, consequences of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and its noncompliance with

the Security Council resolutions, U.S. aggression against Libya, and security and solidarity of the Islamic states.

The cultural committee in a resolution has called upon India to rebuild Babri Masjid [mosque] at its original site as promised by New Delhi.

Referring to a resolution on terrorism, the spokesman said that a working group has been set up which has been entrusted with the task of considering all aspects terrorism, including its definition and measures to combat it. The ICO foreign ministers at the conference have pledged aid worth $58 million for Bosnia.

The foreign minister of Turkey, Mr. Hikmet Cetin, has called upon the Muslim world to forge further unity to tide over the critical challenges being faced by the ummah. He was talking to the PTV correspondent, M.Z. Sohail, in Karachi.

[Begin recording] [Sohail] Sir, would you please comment on the proceedings of the conference?

[Cetin] Well, first of all, I am very pleased to be in Pakistan, a brotherly country, and this conference is taking place in a very critical time in the world issues. ICO is playing, can play a very important role in the international issues, not only the problems between the Islamic countries, but also with the whole international issues. Because of 51 members, it is very important and very important bloc in the United Nations. We are almost one- third of the United Nations and I think this conference is a very important one and it will play very important role for the peace, security, and cooperation and friendly attitudes among the Islamic countries.

[Sohail] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, the Libyan foreign minister, Mr. Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, said that Libya's stand on Kashmir is very clear. The issue should be settled on the basis of UN resolutions and in the light of Simla agreement, he added. He said we condemn abuse of human rights everywhere in the world. He said the name of Pakistan has a special meaning in Libya, not only as a friend but also as a country which helped the cause of Libya's independence at the United Nations. Mr. Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir also called for lifting of sanctions against Libya.

The ICO secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, had a meeting with the chairman of the 21st conference of foreign ministers, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Leghari, in Karachi last night. The focus of their meeting was the organizational matters of the current conference. The conference is due to conclude tomorrow.

Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also had a meeting with the in charge minister of foreign affairs, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari. They discussed various problems being faced by the ummah. Bilateral issues also figured during the meeting.

Bosnia Thanks Saudis for Support

LD2804162793 Riyadh SPA in English 1241 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 28, SPA—Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic has hailed Saudi Arabia's support to his country at political, material and spiritual levels.

While commenting on the speech of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, before the participants of the 21st Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Karachi and the royal decree, granting us dlrs 20 million in immediate humanitarian aid to Bosnia, Silajdzic thanked the kingdom's people and government for their generous aid to Bosnia.

In a statement to SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, he said the Kingdom's support to Bosnia has generated good impact in the world.

Saudi Envoy Meets Pakistani Leader

LD2804164493 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 28, SPA—Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan received at the presidential palace in Karachi yesterday Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who is currently leading Saudi Arabia's delegation to the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

President Ishaq Khan expressed his appreciation and gratitude to custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz for his distinguished and pioneering efforts in the service of Islam and Muslims in all parts of the world.

The meeting was attended by Pakistani Foreign Under Secretary Khalid Saleem and Saudi Ambassador to Islamabad Yusuf Motabbakani.

After the meeting, Prince Sa'ud said he conveyed to President Ishaq Khan, the greetings of King Fahd and his best wishes to Pakistan.

In a statement to reporters, Prince Sa'ud said the kingdom's delegation to the conference was instructed by King Fahd to endeavor to make the conference a success, specially in view of the critical phase the Islamic world was passing through.

Asked whether he discussed with President Ishaq Khan the domestic situation in Pakistan, Prince Sa'ud said the kingdom has no right to interfere in the domestic affairs of any country.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prince Sa'ud stressed the need for a military action whether for delivering supplies and humanitarian aid to the Bosnian people or for lifting the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia.

He said the 21st conference gave priority to this issue during its deliberations.

"All those, who have participated in the general deliberations on the issue in the conference, have unanimously agreed that the economic sanctions were not capable of changing the tragic and painful situation of the Bosnian people. Therefore, they were convinced of a dire need to take immediate actions to implement the agreement reached by U.N. envoys Cyrus Vance and David Owen."

Asked what step the Islamic world would take if the world community failed to respond positively, Prince Sa'ud said this issue is an international and since Bosnia lies in Europe, the Islamic world is awaiting a positive role from Europe.

Meanwhile, Prince Sa'ud had several meetings separately in Karachi yesterday with the deputy prime minister of Albania, foreign ministers of Iran, Algeria and Azerbaijan, the OIC [Islamic Organization Conference] secretary general and the prime minister of Azad Kashmir.

Prince Sa'ud reviewed with them bilateral relations and issues on the agenda of the 21st conference.

The meetings were attended by Motabbakani.

Libyan Envoy Meets Other Foreign Ministers

LD2804164993 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, Al Tayer [April] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, held meetings with the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Malaysia and Zanzibar, on the periphery of the meetings of the 21st session of the meetings of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

During these meetings discussions were held regarding the agenda items with a view to coordinating the stances. Issues of joint interest were also discussed.

Iranian Human Rights Resolution Approved

NC2904085793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The 21st conference of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers in Karachi continues. Last night, the political committee discussed a resolution proposed by Iran on human rights. Our special correspondent in Karachi reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Last night, the ICO political committee approved an Iranian resolution on human rights. It stresses respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms based on Islamic values and teachings and commitment to the principles listed as imperative in international charters. It calls for not using human rights as a political weapon.

The resolution expresses concern over human rights violations, apartheid, colonialism, a revival of neonazism, and ethnic cleansing. The resolution also assesses the repercussions of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. This was a controversial issue for the political committee, but it was ultimately approved.

While stressing nonaggression of international borders, the resolution calls for Iraq to implement Security Council resolutions. The resolution stresses the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and the return of Kuwaiti property and assets. [end recording]

Pakistani Envoy on Foreign Ministers Meeting

BK2904094093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 0604 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Interview with Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan by correspondent Quatrina Hossain at the Sheraton Hotel, Karachi on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] [Hossain] Shaharyar Saheb, thank you for giving us your time. Can you please tell us how are things are going, how the conference is proceeding.

[Sharyar Khan] Well, I think, the conference has been a very great success. It has been a success because there has been a very strong element of unity in the ranks of the ummah [Islamic community]. Secondly, it has been a success for Pakistan because we have received, perhaps, the highest number of foreign ministers ever in a foreign ministers conference of Islamic countries. We have had 43. And, to have had this conference held successfully in Pakistan, in Karachi, at this time is a measure of great success and pride for Pakistan. Thirdly, in terms of substance, I believe that we have managed to get through a great deal of work in all the committees and specially in the Political Committee. I can say that we have had resolutions on Kashmir, on Bosnia, on human rights, on terrorism—all these issues which are of great concern to the Islamic ummah, all of them. We have managed to have resolutions after discussions, very positive and constructive discussions. So, I think, it has been one of the most successful conference which I recall.

[Hossain] So, we can look forward to the Karachi Declaration as a historic document?

[Sharyar Khan] Indeed, we can. I think one has to say that in the past 10-20 years, we have seen a certain division in the Islamic ummah. There was the Iran-Iraq war, there was the problem in the Kuwait and Iraq, there has been Afghanistan. All these issues, I hope now, we are putting behind, and that the ummah is coming together, understanding each other. There have been some very important speeches in the committee. But there has been no personal rancor. The each country has stated its position clearly and I think there is generally a feeling tl at we must come together and this feeling has permeated right through the committees and, of course, in the plenary now.

[Hossain] Thank you very much for your time.

[Shaharyar Khan] Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.

Philippine President Hails ICO Support for Peace Process

HK2904093593 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has reportedly expressed happiness over the positive response the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] made to the Philippine Government's peace process in the southern part of the country. Ramos said that the ICO's reaction during the Islamic Conference's ministerial session, currently being held in Karachi, Pakistan, is an indication of its favorable position. In the series of reports that Ramos has received from the high-level goodwill mission in Karachi, it was revealed that the ICO wholeheartedly supports the Ramos administration's efforts to find a comprehensive solution to resolve the problem faced by the Muslims in Mindanao as soon as possible.

The mission is headed by Lininggding Pangandaman, the governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Also included in the goodwill mission are Congressmen Eduardo Ermita and Nur Jaafar; Ambassadors Nicasio Valderama and Fortunato Oblena; Dimasangkay Pundato, Office of Muslim Affairs executive director; Joddah Consulate General Candidato Gutog; and Basarim Guinomia, the officer in charge of the Philippine Embassy in Oman. Based on the mission's report, the ICO has urged the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front to do their best to realize the formal peace talks within the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines, based on the Tripoli Agreement which was signed last 1976.

ECO Holds Meeting on Combating Drug Trafficking

LD2604171693 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The first meeting of drug campaign experts from the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states concluded its work here Monday by singling out four pivotal bases as a framework for battling drug trafficking.

The establishment of the Liaison Officers Organization, assigned to coordinate anti-drug actions of ECO members, exchange of data on smuggling of narcotic drugs and chemicals and identification of drug traffickers are among the decisions taken in the Tehran meeting.

Chairman of the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Zargar told reporters that Iran's proposal to the meeting that a fund be set up to finance anti-drug operations of ECO members would be placed on agenda of the next meeting to be held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Referring to the seizure of 62 tons of narcotic drugs and arrest of 45,000 traffickers and addicts in Iran last year, Zargar said the Islamic Republic would step up its fight against drug smugglers and distributors in future.

The two day meeting aimed at working out practical mechanisms for fighting drug traffickers, opened here Sunday.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Leaders, Media Divided on Merit of Talks

Opposition Calls For PNC Session

TA2804150193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Bonn—QUDS PRESS—Two prominent Palestinian figures in the occupied territories have called for the convocation of an extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to discuss the decision on participating in the ninth round of negotiations, which began yesterday in Washington. They also called for a referendum to be held among Palestinians under the supervision of the United Nations or neutral international parties in order to discern the Palestinian people's true opinions about the talks.

A statement issued by Dr. Muhammad Jadallah, who is close to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that "a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace that ensures an end to the existing conflict in the Middle East region is one that provides the aspired for stability and guarantees the Palestinian people's national rights."

Al-Maliki and Jadallah are currently on a visit of several days to Germany at the invitation of Cologne University. [passage omitted]

ALF Urges Withdrawal From Talks

JN2804150393 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 28. INA—The Palestinian Arab Liberation Front (ALF) called for the Palestinian delegation's withdrawal from the negotiations settlement to end an "exposed conspiracy against our people and nation."

In a press statement here today, an authorized source at the front also called for holding a meeting for all Palestinian resistance groups to underline a unified strategy in order to confront current challenges.

The source referred to the courageous Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories which he said proved to the Zionist enemy, the West and the whole world that the Palestinian people had a historical right over their land and were ready to continue their struggle.

He noted that the Zionist enemy as well as its allies knew well that there was no force on earth could eradicate the people of Palestine since their roots were deep in their territories.

The source called for exposing the regimes that practice pressures on the Palestinians to continue the path of the settlement.

PFLP-GC Statement on Strike

JN2804190593 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Apr 93

["Political statement on the 27 April strike" issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; place and date not given]

[Text] O masses of our Palestinian Arab people; O masses of our Arab nation: On 23 September last year, our Palestinian Arab masses stood up to declare their rejection of the administrative self-rule plot and of the participation of a renegade clique from the Palestinian people in the plot aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and relinquishing the national identity and the legitimate rights of Arab and Muslim people of Palestine.

As this renegade clique continued its falsehood, claiming that it represents our people and that it is capable of seizing the masses' decisionmaking, the Palestinian Arab people stood up again on 27 April to declare—through their general strike—their stand clearly and to announce their rejection of the trading of their national cause and legitimate rights. Our masses responded to the call of the 10 Palestinian forces to stage a strike in expression of these masses' absolute rejection of the allegation of the [PLO] Tunisia leadership and its negotiating delegation that they represent the Palestinian people. The Tunisia leadership took this allegation as a pretext to participate in the Washington talks aimed at accomplishing the old and new U.S.-Zionist plan to liquidate the Palestine question, and to entrench the usurpation of Palestine and the presence of the Zionist entity on its soil, as a final and irrevocable fact.

O masses of our people; O strugglers: Our masses' comprehensive response in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the strike call on 27 April has reiterated two basic, irrefutable things:

First, through the large-scale response to the 10 Palestinian factions' call for a strike, our masses exposed the real position of the Tunisia leadership and its negotiating delegation. A big difference has surfaced between the will of the Tunisia leadership and that of the masses. Each day, that leadership is losing its credibility before its masses. The Palestinian masses responded to the call to strike despite the Tunisia leadership's methods, from which the Zionist enemy was not far away, to prevent our masses from expressing their real and honest stand. The Tunisia leadership issued a series of statements calling on our masses to not respond to the strike and used loyal and Zionist media in a concentrated effort to mislead our masses. As these methods failed, the Tunisia leadership did not hesitate to push its agents to create internecine fighting among the Palestinians by threatening our merchants and students in Janin and elsewhere if they responded to the strike call.

Our masses have foiled the attempts of those who tried to create sedition and internecine fighting and showed hostility to a leadership that has no right to represent them. Our masses moved in the largest referendum to show the reality of their rejection of the negotiations and the course of capitulation and liquidation followed by the Tunisia leadership. Thus, our masses have shown that the 10 Palestinian factions and the national Palestinian personalities are now considered the true representative of our masses' will and the real popular leadership of our people's struggle.

Our masses' overwhelming response to the 10 Palestinian forces' call is a message to the entire world and to those who uphold democracy emphasizing which party represents the real leadership of our people. Thus, the call by the 10 Palestinian factions—with our front in the lead—for free and fair elections, through which our people in and outside the territories will choose the command which best expresses their aspirations, is a legitimate, urgent, and immediate need.

Through their 27 April strike, our masses have explicitly stated that those in Tunis who peddle the Palestinian cause do not represent the Palestinian people. At the very best, they represent only themselves. From this premise, while affirming the legitimate demand for a referendum, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] views any agreement or draft agreement that is reached in Washington between the so-called Palestinian delegation and the Zionists as not binding to our people in any way whatsoever. Our people, who were capable of foiling the conspiracies that were concocted against them, are also capable of foiling the new conspiracy.

Secondly, the Zionist brutality against our masses who took to the streets on 27 April 1993 to express their stand rejecting the selling of their cause has demonstrated that the U.S. promises, which the so-called Palestinian delegation had promoted and on whose basis it justified its resumption of the ninth round of negotiations, are no more than an attempt by the negotiating delegation and the Tunis command to kick up dust and justify their humiliating involvement in the conspiracy against our Palestinian people and their national cause.

On the day of the strike, these promises began to appear in their true light when the soldiers of terrorist Rabin opened fire on the sons of our people, martyring two and wounding 75 others. This took place with the bullets of the goodwill gestures the Americans had communicated to the Tunis command and the so-called Palestinian delegation from Rabin. As for the second goodwill gesture by the general [Rabin], and on whose basis the Tunis command delegation justified its bypassing the

deportee issue, it consisted of the pledge to return several longtime deportees. However, it became clear later on that this list was prepared by the Zionist enemy and comprises 30 deportees who are loyal to the policy of the Tunis command from among the over 1,200 deportees the Zionists have uprooted from our land since 1967.

The acceptance by the Tunis command and its negotiating delegation of this gesture by Rabin constitutes a violation of UN resolutions and a bypassing of the right to immediate repatriation of the 400 deportees who are facing the enemy in southern Lebanon. This acceptance has also greatly harmed the right to repatriation by which our masses and their national forces abide.

Our people and strugglers, the masses have had their say on the day of the strike and have demonstrated that all the attempts to circumvent our people's rights and struggle will fail. This staunch popular stand makes the national vanguards dutybound to enhance their struggle and support our people's steadfastness. It also dictates the strengthening of the alliance of the 10 Palestinian factions as a genuine expression of our people's will and of their aspirations to liberate Palestine, all of Palestine.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

PLO Official Withdraws From Team

JN2904080493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 27

[Text] Amman—Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has withdrawn his membership from the committee in charge of coordination between the PLO and the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. This came after the Palestinian People's Party, to which al-Najjab belongs, decided to withdraw from the negotiating delegation and not to take part in the ninth round of negotiations.

PLO's 'Abbas on Decision To Negotiate

PM2804163993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 4

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abbas] The truth is that what charaterized the previous eight rounds of negotiations over a period of 18 months was the ambiguity of the Israeli position on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. One minute the resolutions applied to the occupied Palestinian territory and the next they did not. That was confusing. That Israeli position did not encourage a return to the negotiations unless that issue was decisively resolved. Furthermore, the position of the United States as the main sponsor of the peace process in particular and the positions of the two sponsors in general were not effective.

Another point of frustration to the Palestinians was the fact that their representation was not comprehensive. So, in the light of these factors, some Palestinians argued against going to Washington while others called for a dialogue with the parties concerned. Thr result was as follows: The Americans promised to act as full partners in the negotiations in the sense that they would intervene with the negotiators and would submit proposals and act seriously to promote agreement. The new U.S. Administration also reaffirmed its commitment to the terms of reference, particularly the land-for-peace principle, the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and security and peace for all the peoples of the Middle East. The Americans also asserted that they did not approve of the principle of deportation and that Israel's violation of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territory should be dealt with.

That, theoretically, represented an acceptable degree of seriousness and reassured us that the negotiating atmosphere would be comfortable.

On the other point connected with Palestinian representation, I recall that we used to request representation of the Palestinians in the occupied territory and in the diaspora as well as Jerusalem, but only the Palestinians inside the occupied territory were represented. While the eight rounds were in progress we managed to have representatives from the diaspora participate in the multilateral negotiations. Now Jerusalem will be officially represented in the ninth round irrespective of the Israeli maneuvers and claim that brother Faysal al-Husayni has two addresses. We and the whole world know that al-Husayni is a son of Jerusalem and that he is the head of the Palestinian team. Israel rejected him before because he is a son of Jerusalem.

Then, in vague terms Israel declared that deportation is not a policy of Israel and that it would not resort to it in the future. That was a very important gain. Even more important was the fact that it agreed to repatriate a number of people deported since 1967. This means that the very principle of deportation is beginning to disappear totally and that, as a result, the deportees will return to their homes individually or in groups. Furthermore, Rabin has stated that resolutions 242 and 338 apply to all tracks including the Palestinian track. That reassures us and indicates that the Israeli position is beginning to change.

Some of us saw all these factors as sufficient for us to go to Washington, while others said they were insufficient. Those of the second view could not come up with an alternative. What means would we have if we did not participate in the negotiations? Those who talk about the intifadah and about armed struggle know that these have not stopped. On the contrary, both have intensified since the Madrid conference started about 30 months ago.

With every new round of negotiations we notice fresh escalation. We must know that all that is not an alternative to the negotiating table for the fulfillment of our national rights.

We have decided to return to the negotiations after very major difficulties with much provocation by some groups which did not want anything or did not know what they wanted and which, quite frankly, were irresponsible and content to just issue statements, distribute leaflets, and make speeches without thinking seriously about the fate of their people who are suffering very bad economic and security conditions.

We are, in my view, heading for a new kind of negotiations, and I stress here that the ninth round may not produce significant achievements because the negotiations will take their course, but we must begin to build in the coming round so that we can achieve what we want in the rounds which follow it. We must not proceed from a vacuum but must build steps toward agreement on a transitional phase and then the final phase.

[Al-Barqawi] So the Palestinians are going to Washington out of conviction and not because of Arab or U.S. pressures?

['Abbas] We have never accepted or submitted to any pressures which, in our view, ran contrary to our interests. If we felt that we had no interest in going to Washington, we would not have gone even if the whole world put pressure on us. I do not agree with the view that we did so merely to preserve the unity of the Arab position. No, we decided to go because, above all, it was in our interest to do so and Palestinian interests necessitated it, and, secondly, because there was an Arab position we wished to maintain. We know our interests better than anyone else. We assess and we decide. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] Some people have expressed the view that the ninth round may be the last round of Middle East peace negotiations.

['Abbas] Yes, I do not wish to be optimistic or overoptimistic like some people because negotiations are a give-and-take process and we will face difficulties on the way to agreements. It is too early to say that the ninth round will be the last. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that the occupation authorities would not object to the ceation of a Palestinian police force inside [the occupied territory]. How do you view that statement?

['Abbas] Peres has put the cart before the horse. The police force would be a result. We wish to talk about beginnings and about principles. Once we have discussed the Palestinian authority and agreed on its framework and dimension and on where it would be and how, and on its powers and the powers of the elected Palestinian council and the authority stemming from it, then the powers would cover not only the police but also water supply, territory, economy, agriculture, health, education, and so on. So, we do not want to begin with the police and consider that as the authority. [passage omitted]

PLO's Abu-Sharif on Resumed Talks

JN2904114293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Nabil Sabbagh, on 28 April, carried within the "Today's Guest" program; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sabbagh] Bassam Abu-Sharif, welcome to Monte Carlo Radio. The bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks entered their second day today. You said recently that you expected a resumption of the talks, even though some ruled out the resumption of the talks after the end of Ramadan. So, your expectations were not out of place.

[Abu-Sharif] Everybody is well aware that my expectations, which I announced in February, have come true. All sides are currently negotiating in Washington. The Israelis are there, and so are the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Jordanians. We hope and wish that this round of talks will produce tangible and clear results.

[Sabbagh] Brother Bassam, among these tangible results is the reported delivery to the Palestinian delegation of a list of names of several Palestinian deportees allowed by the Israeli authorities to return to the occupied territories.

[Abu-Sharif] Israel expelled these deportees from their homeland in the aftermath of the occupation of Palestinian territory in 1967. Their issue has nothing to do with those deported afterward. They are veteran deportees. This was one of the issues agreed upon between the Palestinian delegation and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Warren Christopher had obtained Israel's endorsement of this. That is, undertakings and promises had been given to the Palestinian delegation, to the Palestinians, and to the Palestinian leadership before the Palestinian leadership decided to send a delegation to Washington. We hope and expect that the U.S. Administration will honor all the commitments it made to the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinians in this round of talks.

[Sabbagh] During the next few days, and perhaps during the next few hours, will some of these U.S. ideas or proposals be made public?

[Abu-Sharif] Let me tell you, and through you our people inside the occupied territories, that the Palestinian leadership is not playing games, nor does it engage in idle talk when issues concerning the homeland are at stake. When it decided to send a delegation to the Washington talks, the Palestinian leadership was fully aware, as it is fully aware right now, of what this round of talks would produce. Once we feel that these negotiations, for which

we headed after an arduous and exhausting period, that is, once we feel that the United States is not showing signs of willingness to honor its undertakings, we will announce this. However, things have thus far been proceeding well. We want an end to occupation. The United States offered pledges on the implementation of Resolution 242 and the principle of exchanging land for peace; that is, ending the Israeli occupation of our Palestinian and Arab territories.

[Sabbagh] Bassam Abu-Sharif, the Washington negotiations are continuing. Meanwhile, the occupied territories have been closed for almost a month. This has caused the Palestinians to lose income. It is feared this closure could be maintained for a long time. At the same time, Israeli repression there is in full swing. Only yesterday, some 55 Palestinians were wounded by Israeli bullets. Most of the victims were Gazans. Furthermore, 10 Palestinian factions called for boycotting the negotiations or withdrawing from them.

[Abu-Sharif] Yes. Yes, Nabil. Let me discuss these points one by one. First, there is an escalation in the bloody Israeli terrorist campaign against our Palestinian people. That is true. For our part, we raised this issue with the United States, which continues to extend full support to Israel. We asked how President Clinton can claim to be an advocate of human rights all over the world, while the Palestinians' human rights are being overlooked and flouted by the occupation troops. We deem this round of talks a test for President Clinton. He is required to use uniform standards with regard to human rights. Otherwise, we will espouse a clearly different position on the issue. Second, the Palestinian people suffering from the Israeli iron-fist policy are resisting the occupation. They will continue to do that. We have reiterated in no uncertain terms not only to President Clinton and Rabin, but also to Arab brothers that when President Yasir 'Arafat decides to step up resistance to the occupation, no party whatsoever can stop this or compete with such resistance. It is the PLO hawks who stepped up the confrontation with the occupation troops, and not those who claim to be advocates of armed struggle. Third, it is true that 10 factions issued a statement in Damascus, condemning our participation in the negotiations. We would like to address these people, saying: We respect your views. Yes, we do, because what is happening is Palestinian democracy at work. However, it should be recalled that the overwhelming majority of the Palestinians, represented in major factions and in the Palestinian public, supports the resumption of the negotiations. We have not headed for negotiations to surrender. We went to the negotiations from a position of strength. Once we feel that these negotiations will not lead to an end to the Israeli occupation, rest assured, Nabil, that we will then take a clear position on these negotiations and the peace process and make it clear not only to the Palestinian people, but also to the entire Arab nation. So, it is we who threw down the gauntlet in the face of the United States. It is we who are now challenging President Clinton to prove that he is observing uniform standards in handling occupation issues. Let us wait and see how President Clinton will end the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories.

[Sabbagh] Brother Bassam, it might be difficult for you to answer this question. In your opinion, when will the negotiations yield fruit, particularly since chief Palestinian negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi appeared frustrated yesterday. He questioned the usefulness of continuing negotiations that produce no results.

[Abu-Sharif] Nabil, we do not have any illusions. This is tough political action. The political process is more difficult than military action. In military action, commands are received, and then you open fire. It is either a win-or-lose situation. In contrast, political action is tough and arduous. Mistaken is the person who deems the negotiations a clash between two ways of reasoning, or a stage for eloquent exchanges by my brother and beloved Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and my enemy Rabinovich. The peace process is a manifestation of a U.S. decision. We are attempting to maintain this process so that the circumstances may ripen for the U.S. Administration to make a decision providing for Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories, as Christopher promised us. Christopher publicly stated that the occupation would diminish so that authority—and I am quoting him word for word—may be quietly and physically handed over to the Palestinians, to a Palestinian self-government. We expect that this very round of talks will produce a handover of authority from the occupation authorities to the Palestinians, to a Palestinian self-government enjoying full powers.

[Sabbagh] Brother Bassam, let us consider certain matters. The invitations President Bush extended to the Arab sides which agreed to attend the Madrid conference stipulated that the talks would be held on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging territory for peace. Where is the problem? What is the main hurdle?

[Abu-Sharif] The main hurdle is Israeli procrastination. Second, the United States has not thus far taken a firm position on the issue. Secretary of State Baker and President Bush described themselves as honest brokers [preceding two words in English]. Nowadays, President Clinton says that he, along with Christopher, will play the role of a full partner. We invite the U.S. Administration and the U.S. President to play that role. Well, the full partner does not have the right to show bias toward a certain party. This is a wager. This is the challenge we present to the U.S. Administration. If the U.S. Administration fails to show the Arab nation, the Palestinian people, and the Middle East peoples and states that it is using uniform standards in handling occupation issues, this would mark, I would like to say, an end to the era of stability or semi-stability in the Middle East region, and then the Middle East would boil over like a volcano.

[Sabbagh] Would you like to say anything at the end of this interview?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes, I would like to address our dear people, saying that whenever resistance to occupation is stepped up, the position of the negotiation delegation becomes stronger. So, let us all step up our resistance to occupation. Let us all respect those whom President Yasir 'Arafat asked to negotiate with our enemies in Washington. After all, we cannot make peace, except through negotiations with the enemy. Likewise, we cannot build a future, except through the dismantlement of occupation.

[Sabbagh] Thank you, Bassam Abu-Sharif.

[Abu-Sharif] Thanks.

Abu-Sharif Views U.S. Role

NC2904074593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Excecutive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] We conduct this dialogue after the beginning of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has urged giving priority to substantive issues. How do you view the negotiations in light of this U.S. statement?

[Abu-Sharif] I fully support Secretary Christopher's statement. This is what the Palestinians want. We want to negotiate the substantive issues, not marginal, procedural matters as in previous rounds. Christopher announced all the U.S. promises to us at a news conference. Chief among these was that the occupation will end, to be replaced by a Palestinian self-government [hukumah dhatiyah] with power and influence. He said the promise was earnest and stated that the United States is now a full partner in the peace process. The Palestinians, like the other Arabs, are waiting for Warren Christopher to fulfill his promises.

[Al-Jundi] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation negotiating with the Palestinians, said Israel will move toward Palestinian self-administration [idarah dhatiyah]....

[Abu-Sharif, interrupting] We have no illusions about the negotiations. As I see it, they are merely an announcement that the peace process continues. Real results depend on a U.S. decision. As Palestinians, we have dealt with every U.S. position flexibly, positively, and constructively to make the circumstances ripe for such a U.S. decision. Because U.S. interests required a stable Middle East, the peace process and the search for a settlement became possible. Stability can be built only on a political foundation involving an end to the occupation, guarantees of safety for the region's states....

[Al-Jundi, interrupting] This ninth round of talks was held after nearly four months of delay. It is being held now, after the Palestinian leadership made a major effort to return to the negotiatiions.

[Abu-Sharif] Let me tell you frankly and clearly. In February, I said I expected—without committing the PLO—the negotiations to resume in April. This has happened despite some brothers' actions. The reason I knew was not intrinsically Palestinian, but was because of my true knowledge of the balance of affairs and the real interests of the major powers. U.S. interests require peace. Peace can only be based on stability. Stability can only be achieved by solving the Palestinian issue, that is, ending the Israeli occupation. This is the basic issue, not the deportees. The Palestinian people have the right, like other nations, to exercise self-determination and establish an independent state. The Americans promised us the transitional period will be a stage of transferring power—I say it again, transferring power—from the occupation, which will end, to the Palestinian people's representatives. Christopher specified this by noting that a Palestinian self-government possessing authority will be established. We are waiting for the United States to fulfill its promises.

Let me go back to your first question. For us, this is the last chance. U.S. credibility faces a test. The United States can't maintain its credibility if it continues to apply two standards in dealing with UN and Security Council resolutions. If, as Christopher promised, the United States acts as a full partner in the peace process and if the U.S. Administration uses one standard in dealing with UN and Security Council resolutions—Clinton himself said occupation cannot last and that the resolutions of international legitimacy should be implemented—the situation in the region will improve. I am optimistic.

[Al-Jundi] So you are eager to see the United States play the part of a full and evenhanded partner at the negotiating table?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes. When President Husni Mubarak visited Washington and held a news conference with Clinton, he was very clear on this point. Clinton also gave a clear indication that once all the sides go to the negotiating table, all the U.S. promises will be implemented. We expect the U.S. Administration to fulfill its promises. A new era has begun. A new world is being created in which nations cannot apply double standards to the resolutions of international legitimacy. We want to see one set of standards in force. Israeli occupation should end in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy. We have pursued a every positive line since the peace process started. President Yasir 'Arafat has just made a decision [on the return of the Palestinian delegation to the talks], facilitating the peace process. The U.S. Administration should respond positively to

this. It should apply pressure, leading to the end of the occupation and to the Palestinian people exercising their full right to self-determination.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Abu-Sharif] You are welcome.

'Arafat Adviser on Return to Talks

LD2804231993 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to President 'Arafat, explained the reasons behind the Palestinians' return to the negotiations with Israel:

[Begin Sha'th recording] We return to these talks to achieve as quickly as possible the transfer of complete Palestinian authority to the Palestinians transitional government which should have been set up on 1 November 1992. In addition, there are a number of measures agreed and it is assumed that they will be carried out one by one, to solve the problem of deportation, not only in relation to the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, but also the deportees since 1967 and exclude deportations in the future. Also there are measures on the ground pertaining to Palestinian human rights on whose implementation from today agreement has been reached. [end recording]

But what is the Palestinian response to the Israeli proposals concerning continuing negotiations? Dr. Nabil Sha'th:

[Begin Sha'th recording] Continuing negotiations presume that there is a positive action to the extent that any party can leave the negotiating table to avoid time wasting. If we find that there is something that justifies this seriousness, we stay. Until now we are taking part on the basis of a round with definite dates, and when the date expires we go into another round. We agreed with the Arab delegations, the Arab governments represented in these negotiations, that at the end of next week we shall review the situation to see whether real seriousness in the talks calls for another week or more. But now [words indistinct] the date which was fixed before we arrived. [end recording]

U.S. Urged To Become Full Partner

LD2804234893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, nobody can claim that the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, in their previous eight rounds, have achieved any progress or have broken the deadlock which has hampered them since the Madrid peace conference at the end of 1991. What distinguishes this ninth round of negotiations is that it comes after a new administration has arrived at the White House, which declared that it will play the role of a full partner in these negotiations, in addition to its original role as sponsor of the peace conference.

This round also comes after a break of four months or more, during which Israel has taken many steps that had a negative impact on the Palestinian-Israeli front. The deportation of 400 from their homeland, the imposition of military siege on the occupied territories, and the escalation of Israeli practices, all of these, if not each one alone, could have led to the collapse of the peace process. This has caused further difficulties for the Palestinians to resume negotiations.

The voice of the Palestinian street expresses pessimism by asking: Is it true that Israel, after these steps, seeks to make the negotiation successful? Despite all obstacles, the participating Arab parties decided to return to the negotiations out of commitment to the peace process and so that nobody can accuse them of not being interested in peace. More important is their belief in Washington's promises that it will play an effective role in pushing the process to achieve a just peace based on international legitimacy. Some might say, and they are right, that Washington has broken its promises in the past and that once bitten, twice shy, but within the present situation in the Arab world, alternatives are nonexistent, particularly after the Arabs have ruled out all other solutions.

Also, world public opinion urges the Arabs and the Palestinians not to lose what they call the golden opportunity to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinians have gone to the negotiations, despite the anger in the Palestinian street due to the feelings of bitterness and pain and the uncertainty that any progress will be made in this round. The popular rejection of these negotiations is due to the fact that the statements and practices of Israel's leaders are not assuring concerning the outcome of this round.

Despite all obstacles, the hope in Washington is that Israel in this round will present some proposals that indicate good intentions, starting with Palestinian human rights and the easing of the arbitrary measures in the occupied territories. Also, some reports have been leaked to the effect that Israel has agreed to set up a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee to discuss violations of Palestinian human rights.

Undoubtedly, all parties realize that the ninth round is a decisive round and its outcome will decide the future of the whole region. Either tangible progress will be achieved in the negotiations, or the region will enter into a dark tunnel which leads to devastatingly bloody conflicts. Hence, what is required from the American side is not to spare efforts to make this round successful and tackle matters of essence.

Washington, as it plays the role of full partner, could restore credibility to American diplomacy, which it has

lost due to laxity that characterized it in previous rounds of negotiations. If we have reviewed here the negative American and Israeli attitudes, counter to that we have to point out the importance of the coherent Arab negotiating stand and the commitment to international legitimacy. Only when our aims are clear could we embarrass the Israeli side and wring Israeli recognition of our rights and force the American side to be committed and loyal to its declared positions, and prevent any side from wasting time and prevaricating. This round will be judged as the real test for the intentions of the parties and their seriousness in resolving the process.

Algeria

Gunmen Assassinate Municipal Official 28 Apr

LD2804165293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] At 1000 today three armed terrorists assassinated Mr Slimani Kamel, head of the executive delegation of the municipality of Eucalyptus. Sources from the capital's security services, which announced the news this afternoon, said the terrorists opened fire from their automatic pistols on Mr Slimani, when he stopped his car and prepared to enter his office in the municipality. They wounded him with three bullets in the head, and then fled.

The sources added that the victim died while on the way to the hospital.

Gendarmerie Successes Against 'Terrorist Groups'

LD2804154893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The National Gendarmerie continues to pursue terrorist groups. This report on the latest from Hassiba Kechroud:

[Kechroud] The National Gendarmerie command said that a terrorist named Jennadi Elias, of Blida, who was under investigation on charges of involvement in several armed attacks, such as the attack which targeted the National Development Bank in Bouguerra, was eliminated yesterday morning. The gendarmerie said that Elias died after being wounded during a clash with a gendarmerie unit on a routine identity check operation. Elias had tried to take away one of the gendarmes' guns. [passage omitted]

In Tiaret, the gendarmerie said that a terrorist gang was yesterday dismantled and its members, numbering 10, placed under arrest. The gang was led by Kacem Ahmed, alias Khaled, a Tiaret resident who is also a student at the University of Islamic Sciences at Adrar. A number of rifles were recovered.

Higher State Council, FLN Delegation Meet 28 Apr

LD2904081193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Continuing its meetings with the political parties, associations, and personalities, the Higher State Council [HSC], chaired by Ali Kafi, received a delegation from the National Liberation Front [FLN] today consisting of Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the secretary general, and Mr. Ali Benflis.

This meeting is a part of the HSC's endeavor to continue and strengthen the dialogue with the nation's vital forces in order to reach a consensus that will enable the country to emerge out of the crisis.

The discussions between the HSC and the FLN dealt with the essential issues related to the next stage of the dialogue. Finally, the two sides concluded their meeting by affirming the need to combat terrorism at both the security and political levels.

Egypt

Bombing Suspect 'Tortured' by U.S. Authorities

NC2904113593 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 17

[Report by Usamah Salamah]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has obtained a copy of a letter sent by Mahmud Abu-Halimah, a suspect in the World Trade Center bombing in New York, to his wife in Cairo early this month. His wife later left for the United States.

In the letter Abu-Halimah writes: "Dear Barbara, I send this letter to you through Mr. George, my lawyer. You cannot imagine how horrible it was to hear of the brutal way the Egyptian police have treated you and my family, particularly my dear father. Therefore, I ask you to leave for Germany or America with the children as soon as you read this letter."

In a sentimental letter he wrote in English to his wife, Abu-Halimah says: "Dear Barbara... because of the assistance given by the Egyptian police... the U.S. authorities have arrested me and started to treat me in the worst possible way... tortured me a lot to confess to participating in the World Trade Center bombing, a crime of which you well know I am innocent."

Abu-Halimah asks his wife to give a copy of that letter to the Egyptian Lawyers Association and the Arab Lawyers Association so that they may form a committee to defend him and prove him innocent of this crime, as they did in the case of "Sayyid Nusayr who was unjustly accused of assassinating the great terrorist Kahane."

Abu-Halimah, who signs his letter "your obedient and faithful husband," concludes with the words "I miss you very much and hope to see you in New York."

'Extremists' Given Orders To Overthrow Regime

NC2904102893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egyptian extremists have received instructions from al-Jihad Organization leaders living in exile in Iran and Sudan to step up assassinations of public figures and terrorist attacks on vital installations. The security services have received information that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Hizballah, [Tunisia's] Ennahdah movement, [Algeria's] Islamic Salvation Front, the al-Jihad Organization, and the National Front [al-jabhah al-qawmiyah] are discussing plans to overthrow the Egyptian regime. The information adds that Iran is

willing to finance terrorist operations inside Egypt to establish a regime loyal to it.

Sudanese opposition sources have reported that Sudan's ruling military regime has asked Iran to increase military aid and to hold joint maneuvers to improve the Sudanese Army's combat capability. The Sudanese regime justified its request by alleging that Sudan faces foreign threats to its territorial sovereignty. The sources said Tehran is supplying the Sudanese regime with 25,000 barrels of oil daily to help it surmount its current oil crisis. Libya refused to supply Sudan with oil in protest of Hasan al-Turabi's National Islamic Front's control of the country.

Committee Denounces Sudan Plot Accusation

NC2804165793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese-Egyptian Solidarity Committee has commented on the sudden and theatrical announcement by the Sudanese Government led by 'Umar al-Bashir on its discovery of a plot to invade Sudan and assassinate some political figures, a plot allegedly hatched by the National Democratic Grouping and backed by Egypt. The committee said that this announcement by the Sudanese Government does not deceive the Sudanese people, who are known for their political vigilance and awareness.

In a statement issued today, the committee denounced the campaign of lies and calumnies that the regime of al-Turabi and al-Bashir has unleashed against Egypt. The committee affirmed its absolute confidence in Egypt and in the relations between the two fraternal people, which will remain the shield protecting the two people's security and stability.

The committee declared its support for the Nairobi declaration, calling on Egyptian and Sudanese national democrats to display solidarity with the Sudanese strugglers who are suffering a campaign of detention, terror, and torture in Sudan.

Large Antiterror Demonstration in Abu Tij 28 Apr

NC2904054693 Paris AFP in English 0449 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Tij, April 29 (AFP)—Some 7,000 people demonstrated against fundamentalist terrorist violence Wednesday at Abu Tij, 410 kilometres (250 miles) south of Cairo, after a curfew in the town was eased.

The curfew was imposed in Abu Tij on April 11 after a fundamentalist attack that left three police officers dead, including the deputy chief for the southern region, General Muhammad al-Shimi.

The partial lifting of the curfew, which remains in force from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., was announced during a meeting between the new governor of the Asyut region, General Muhammad Samih, and the town elders, who had complained that the curfew was hitting small businessmen.

About 7,000 people, out of a town population of 60,000, then went into the streets shouting slogans hostile to the Muslim fundamentalists.

Before, the population had been allowed to move about in the morning only.

General Samih, a former intelligence officer, said the curfew was "necessary to ensure public security," saying the Islamic extremists were "manipulated by foreign hands aiming to destabilise the state by hitting at the economy and tourism."

But he promised the curfew would be wholly lifed as soon as those responsible for the April 11 attack were caught.

Egypt has seen a wave of fundamentalist violence over the last year that has claimed 138 lives.

Algerian Minister Arrives for Cooperation Talks

NC2804152393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Algerian Industry Minister Belkacem Benlarbi arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of a few days during which he will hold talks on ways to strengthen economic and industrial relations.

In an arrival statement, the Algerian minister said that his visit is considered a good opportunity to get acquainted with Egypt's industrial potential and expertise and to discuss Algeria's own potential and expertise in this field in order to achieve serious cooperation.

He added that world market conditions demand that we cooperate in the joint production of goods to achieve self-sufficiency and compete in world markets. He expressed the hope that the cooperation between Egypt and Algeria will be a model for all Arab states. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Congratulates Eritrea Leader on Independence

NC2804170493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki on the occasion of the declaration of the independence of Eritrea. The text of the message follows:

Your excellency, dear brother: It pleases me to send you my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the announcement of the outcome of the referendum through which your friendly people—in confirmation of their right to self-determination—expressed their wish to

declare the full independence of their country, the independent state of Eritrea, so it can play its historic role in Africa and achieve success and prosperity under your wise leadership.

I am confident that the historic achievement made by Eritrea today will open the way before us to further strengthen the relations between Egypt and the independent state of Eritrea and entrench the historic ties between our two peoples. The Egyptian Government and people look forward to establishing further cooperation for the sake of the interest and glory of our two countries and to achieve progress and prosperity. I pray God to grant you and your people abundant success.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at delivered the message to 'Usman 'Umar, head of the Eritrean office in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Naji al-Ghatrifi, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman, stated that President Mubarak's message to the Eritrean president is regarded as Egyptian recognition of the new fraternal African state. He said that Egypt is happy because Eritrea has joined the African family. [passage omitted]

Ministry Official Cited on Debt Rescheduling

NC2804183193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—An official source at the International Cooperation Ministry has stated that Egypt has succeeded in rescheduling debts of $21 billion to 17 states that are members of the Paris Club. He noted that agreement on rescheduling Egypt's debts to Italy, which total $600 million, will be reached within the next two weeks.

In a statement to MENA, the source pointed out that the second stage of the negotiations with the Paris Club to reschedule Egypt's debts will take place after Egypt reaches agreement with the IMF in May. During this second stage, another 15 percent of Egypt's total debt will be dropped, bringing the total to 30 percent. He said that agreement on rescheduling the remaining 20 percent of Egypt's debts will take place at the end of 1994 according to the agreement signed between Egypt and the Paris Club in May 1991.

Libya

Meeting With Germany Discusses Economic Cooperation

LD2404214893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Excerpts] An Arab Libyan-German meeting convened this evening to discuss the consolidation of economic cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Germany. [passage omitted]

During this meeting, methods to strengthen economic relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Germany and to achieve mutual interest were discussed.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yemeni President's Message

LD2404191393 Tripoli JANA in English 1708 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received 'Abdallah Ahmad al-'Ud, the ambassador of Yemen to the great Jamahiriyah.

The ambassador conveyed a note verbal to the leader of the revolution from the President of the Republic of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Sudan

Report on Second Round Peace Talks in Abuja

AB2804181993 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The rebel faction delegation at the ongoing Abuja peace conference on the Sudan has withdrawn its decision that international observers must be present at the negotiating table as a precondition for the continuation of the talks. In a statement in Abuja today, the rebel delegation said their earlier demand for the presence of international observers at the peace talks was not due to lack of confidence in the Nigerian Government to broker a peace deal between the warring sides, but they believed that the observers would enhance a successful outcome.

After a thorough observation of the situation, the rebel faction said it realized that consideration for such a request at this point in time might be prejudicial to the peace conference. They hoped that the conference would consider the desirability of international observers as the talks progress.

Our correspondent in Abuja reports that the rebel faction delegation had earlier in the day said it would not continue with the peace talks until international observers were invited.

Ummah Party's al-Mahdi Denies Coup Plot Allegations

PM2904084493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mahdi Denies Khartoum Authorities' Accusations"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Cairo, London, Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—[passage omitted] Sudanese Ummah Party leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday denied what the [Sudanese] authorities said about his role in a coup attempt which they said was to be

implemented with Egyptian support. He accused the Sudanese authorities of "fabrication." [passage omitted]

While the Sudanese authorities revealed new details of what they termed "the opposition's plan to topple the government," Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi issued a statement saying: The present Sudanese rulers launched a media campaign which reached its peak on 24 April. The gist of it is that I participated with others in a plot supported by a foreign country and designed to cause violent terrorist actions. And they alleged that my speech on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr was a preparation for this plot.

He added: The actions they attributed to me and to other brothers could not be carried out by the people of Sudan and it is unreasonable to suggest that Sudanese would plan them, especially as the present regime is its own enemy and the victim of its own mistakes. It is harming itself by itself, so there is no need to resort to these desperate measures against it.

The recent 'Id speech was clear. The gist of it was that the situation in Sudan has deteriorated so badly that there are possibilities of an international intervention in the country's internal affairs and possibilities of some people's resorting to armed resistance. And that in view of these possibilities, I believe that the best solution is to work to avoid international interventions and involvement in repression and violent clashes. I also said that the best option is to find a peaceful, political, national democratic solution. [passage omitted]

He added: The Sudanese rulers' allegations about me are a fabrication. This is the third fabrication to which I have been exposed at the hands of that regime. In the past I was exposed to fabrications at the hands of the May regime. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Congratulates Eritreans on Independence

EA2804221693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has congratulated the people of Eritrea on the results of the referendum and their unanimity on attaining their independence after a vicious struggle which lasted 30 years.

The remarks came during his excellency's meeting this morning at the Council of Ministers with information and press leaders. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir affirmed that the victory of the Eritrean people is regarded as a victory for the Sudanese people. The short age of the salvation has increased ties between the two brotherly peoples.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that the independence of Eritrea comes at a time when the region is approaching stability and unanimity between the governments. His excellency praised the Ethiopian Government for accepting the results of the referendum, affirming that the Sudan would continue its support to the people of Eritrea during the stage of construction and development.

In a separate development, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir dealt with the economic decisions that were issued recently. He said the decision to abolish the paper money market came because the infrastructure for setting up this market was incomplete and this had a negative impact on the livelihood of citizens.

Energy Minister Meets French Oil Company Official

EA2704223093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] At his office this morning, Brigadier Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of energy and mining, discussed with the director of Middle East operations for the French company Total the company's operations in Sudan and the possibility of its returning to continue its prospecting operations, which had been suspended ever since the outbreak of the war in southern Sudan. The French side expressed readiness to cooperate with Sudan to develop its oil fields and increase their output through prospecting. The minister expressed Sudan's readiness to cooperate with the company in its operations.

Tunisia

'Arafat Discusses Political Developments With Ben Ali

LD2604181893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this afternoon met Zine Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia. Present at the meeting were Tunisian Prime Minister Dr Hamed Karoui; Mr. Said Ben Mustapha, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar made a statement after the meeting in which he said: I have discussed with my brother President Ben Ali the recent political developments at this very critical time with regard to the Palestinian cause, when the Palestinian delegation, together with the rest of the Arab delegations, heads for participation in the ninth round of bilateral talks.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar expressed hope that the U.S. and Russian sponsors, especially the U.S. sponsor, will consider this round as decisive, especially after the U.S. announcement that it plays a full partner's role. He said: We

hope that constructive decisions and steps will be taken for bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the occupied territories which "We did bless" [Koran quotation]. [passage omitted]

FRG President Weizsaecker Begins Tunisia Visit

LD2804191393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] President of the Federal Republic of Germany Richard von Weizsaecker arrived in Tunis at 1600 this afternoon on a state visit that will continue until 1 May in response to an invitation from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The president and Laila Ben Ali, the head of state's wife, welcomed the German president and his wife, who is accompanying on this visit.

Discusses Ties Ben Ali

LD2904101493 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1950 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a private conversation this evening with German President Richard von Weizsaecker at Carthage Palace. Bilateral relations, the prospects of bolstering them, and Tunisian-German cooperation were the main focus of this conversation. The official presidential spokesman made clear that his excellency the president gave his guest a discourse on the achievements Tunisia has attained since the change, in various economic, social, and cultural fields, as well as in the area of bolstering the democratic process and strengthening human rights, which has helped to build bases of a society based on tolerance, solidarity, and moderation. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Collaborators Inside Kuwait Implicated in Bush Plot

PM2804110293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 93 p 1

[Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri report: "Interrogation of Suspects Accused of Plotting To Blow Up Bush's Motorcade Continues"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—'Abbas Munawir, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Defense and Internal Affairs Committee, has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there were collaborators of Iraqi origin inside Kuwait who cooperated with the Iraqi group arrested on the charge of planning to blow up the motorcade of former U.S. President George Bush.

'Abbas Munawir said that, after the arrest of the Iraqi gang which infiltrated Kuwait with the aim of blowing up several targets to undermine security, the detainees confessed under interrogation that there were collaborators inside Kuwait who coordinated with them for the purpose of blowing up George Bush's motorcade. [passage omitted]

Names, Nationalities of Saboteurs

LD2804200693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1823 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 28 Apr (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry today announced the names of the 17 members of the Iraqi terrorist and sabotage network—12 of them are Iraqi, four Kuwaiti, and one of unspecified nationality.

The security services at the Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of 15 defendants. The two who are at large are still being sought.

The suspects are:

1. Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir Abbud al-Asadi, 33 years old, of Iraqi nationality, arrested. He is the leader of the network and the main active member in the plan.

2. Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Hasan al-Ghazali, 46 years old, Iraqi nationality, arrested. He is one of the main members of the network and member of Iraqi intelligence.

4. [as received] Bandar 'Ajil Jabir al-Shammari, 32 years old, Iraqi nationality, arrested. He was resident in Kuwait with a criminal record and was charged in a number of cases.

5. 'Adil Isma'il 'Isa, 43 years old, Iraqi nationality, arrested, with a criminal record and had been convicted in a number of cases. He is a primary member in the network.

6. Hadi 'Awdah Harjan al-Shammari, 42 years old, Iraqi nationality, arrested. He was carrying a quantity of drugs to sell inside the country and share the money among the members of the network.

7. 'Ali Khidayir Badday 'Abd, nicknamed: al-Majidi, 64 years old, Iraqi nationality, arrested. Member of the Iraqi intelligence service which provided the network.

American Oil Worker Reported Missing Along Iraqi Border

NC2804162593 Paris AFP in English 1551 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait City, April 28 (AFP)—An American oil worker has disappeared along the Kuwait-Iraq border, officials said Wednesday.

The American was reported missing two days earlier after Kuwaiti border guards saw him head north, according to Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, Kuwait's interim interior and defense minister.

The interior ministry told the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM] that the American was missing, but UNIKOM officials said they knew nothing about the case.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' on Monday reported the disappearance of a worker for the Santa Fe oil company, identifying him as Ken Batey. Santa Fe officials confirmed he was missing, but gave no details.

In October, Chad Hall, an American whom the Kuwaiti government had hired to clear mines from border areas, was abducted by the Iraqis and then released several days later.

Since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, several foreigners working in Kuwait have been arrested on the border for "illegal entry" into Iraq. Not all have been released.

Military Source Says No Iraqi Troops Across Border

NC2904110693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Apr (MENA)—A Kuwaiti military source has denied there are any Iraqi troop concentrations on Iraq's side of the border, but said the Kuwaiti forces are ready to confront any emergency.

In a statement to MENA's Kuwait correspondent, the source said Kuwaiti security agencies have not monitored any additional Iraqi forces across the border. He said the UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] has observed no Iraqi concentrations either.

The source said the Iraqi regime might still carry out unusual acts and that the Kuwaiti forces, with the cooperation of Peninsula Shield forces and troops from friendly countries, can defend Kuwaiti territory in any event.

Kuwaiti, Iranian Unions Criticize Saddam in Statement

LD2504133193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Apr (KUNA)—The unions of the Kuwaiti and Iranian workers have affirmed that the existence of the Iraqi regime headed by Saddam Husayn is not in the interest of the security, stability, and safety of the region.

The two unions in a statement received by KUNA today called for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime and ridding the area and the Iraqi people of its evils and crimes. They pledged to work by all available means for the overthrow of Saddam and aid the Iraqi people and provide their struggle with the assistance it requires.

The Federation of Kuwaiti Workers returned yesterday from a visit to Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Workers Federation.

The two sides affirmed the need to strengthen and develop bilateral relations, and increase cooperation in various labor and social fields, the most important of which are the problems of vocational training, industrial apprenticeship, tourist groups and coordination of attitudes at workers and international conferences.

They agreed to form a joint committee of the two unions to follow up the issue of the Kuwaiti and Iranian POW's and hostages detained in the prisons of the Iraqi regime.

Oman

Communications Agreement Signed With Iran

LD2804102793 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 28, IRNA—Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia and Oman's Minister of Communication Salim Bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali Tuesday underlined further expansion of mutual ties.

In a meeting in Muscat, the two sides reviewed bilateral air and sea links and expressed readiness for the final approval of the bilateral agreement on air transportation.

The draft agreement received approval by Iran's Majlis (parliament) last week and is now in the agenda of the Council of Guardians for final ratification.

Sa'idi-Kia voiced Tehran's readiness to take part in tenders offered by Muscat for the implementation of development projects in such fields as communication networks and construction of ports and airports in the sultanate.

Sa'idi-Kia, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived in Muscat on a three-day official visit Tuesday morning.

Deputy Prime Minister Confers With Iranian Minister

JN2804150193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Muscat, 28 Apr (WAKH)—Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received here today Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, Iranian minister of roads and transport, who is currently on a visit to the country.

Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them. The officials also reviewed a number of issues of mutual concern.

United Arab Emirates

* Fire Raises Fears About Extremism

93WR0226Z London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Article by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Dubayy Redoubles Its Surveillance of Growing Radical Movements"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—The fire that broke out recently at the gigantic Lamsi Shop in Dubayy has aroused fears that fragments of the violence and radicalism movement have arrived in the region, especially since the name of this shop was included in the list of shops and businesses that was distributed in front of mosques nearly three months ago and that called for boycotting these shops and businesses because they are owned by Hindus hostile to Islam.

Even though it has not been proved yet that the Lamsi Shop fire is the work of a certain faction and even though no party has yet claimed responsibility for the fire, which caused a total loss of nearly 30 million dirhams, fears that violence will extend to the region constitute a concern for the security authorities who are watching the active radical movement in some of the region's Islamic countries.

Brigadier General Dahi Khalfan Tamim, general commander of the Dubayy Police, surprised everybody when he declared a month ago that the "individuals who staged the Bombay explosions had stayed in Dubayy for five days before crossing into a neighboring country."

With his statement, Brigadier General Tamim sought to warn of the policy of open portals and transit visas, which he viewed as some of the reasons that attracted threats to security. These dangers also include the proliferation of drugs and the transmission of some communicable diseases, such as AIDS.

The problem faced by the United Arab Emirates is not connected just with the many portals open to foreign arrivals nor with the ease with which they obtain visas. Rather, the main problem lies in the demographic structure, which has been characterized by one official as a time bomb. Officials are not afraid that radicalism will

be communicated to the citizens, but they fear that the growing radical sentiments could influence the peaceful coexistence between sectarian and ethnic groups that are engaged in well-known historical and traditional vendettas in their native countries.

Some sources cite as an example of these fears the developments that followed the burning of the Babri Mosque in India.

Even though Muslims were united in their feelings toward the mosque arson, those feelings were expressed violently at times. The parties that employed violence at the time were motivated more by their historical vendettas or their traditional sectarian conflicts than by religious sentiments.

According to these sources, economic stability and social prosperity in the region's countries continue to act as curbs in the face of violence and radicalism in the region's states. However, growing violence in the neighboring countries must inevitably have ramifications, which could take the form of individual acts that exploit the atmosphere of openness.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

NC2804183593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Karachi on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates. Musa will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He will also hold talks with a number of officials. Musa is due to leave Abu Dhabi for Cairo tomorrow afternoon.

Yemen

'Initial Results' of Parliamentary Elections Reported

JN2904063193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Ahmad Birru dispatch from Sanaa]

[Text] Initial results thus far indicate that the General People's Congress [GPC] is still in the lead, after winning 77 seats in the Council of Representatives. There is strong competition for second place between the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the Yemeni Reform Alliance [YRA]. The YSP has won 21 seats, while the YRA has won 20 seats. This result is not final, pending the announcement of results in various areas.

With respect to the other parties known to average Yemenis, these appear to have been let down. The B'ath Party has thus far won only three seats, while the Nasirites have only obtained two seats. Independents, including GPC and YSP members whose nomination was not endorsed by their parties, have managed to make a breakthrough. The number of independents who have won seats at the Council of Representatives has thus far totaled 14. Observers have attributed the election successes scored by some party leaders to tribal rather than political considerations, as is the case with Jubran Abu-Shawarib, a Ba'th Party leader, and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, leader of the YRA.

These unofficial initial results concern almost half the seats of the new Council of Representatives. The official final results of the elections are expected to be announced Thursday [29 April].

Observers Laud 'Free' Elections

JN2904081893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The process of sorting out the election results at the original centers of election constituencies continued in all Yemeni governorates yesterday. The Yemeni News Agency, SABA' reported that the sorting process is proceeding well, and that the election committees and subcommittees are making immense efforts to accomplish their tasks in the presence of candidates or their representatives as well as international observers at several constituencies. These observers have commended the measures enforced during the secret, free, and direct balloting as well as the procedures carried out afterward, including the sorting process. They affirmed that the Yemeni democratic experience constitutes a large cultural leap in the region.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA' has learned from sources close to the Higher Elections Committee that as of yesterday afternoon, 80 constituences had completed the sorting process and had informed the Higher Elections Committee of the results. The results were conveyed to the Higher Elections Committee after they had been announced in the field at these constituencies and after the final minutes had been signed by the chairmen and members of committees and subcommittees and candidates, or their representatives.

The election results are being announced in the field at the original election constituency centers in the presence of candidates or their representatives. The final results of the elections are scheduled to be officially announced by the Higher Elections Committee within a period not exceeding 72 hours from the time the ballot boxes are closed, which occurred at 2000 Tuesday [27 April], as stipulated by the Electoral Law.

Vice President Views Tasks Facing New Parliament

JN2804141893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, has affirmed that the elections will be a new festivity in our contemporary life, consecrating a new approach in our society and Arab states.

In a radio interview conducted at noon today by Hadramawt radio, the vice chairman added: We take great pride in the fact that we are choosing our path and creating our experience according to our own circumstances. I hope that our experience will be a cause of pride that we can cherish.

The vice chairman of the Presidential Council commented on the pressing tasks facing the next Council of Representatives, affirming the importance of seeing deputies uphold the spirit of democracy so that they may handle issues responsibly and consider the concerns and problems of the majority of people, and not the concerns of a minority. The strength of the council must lie in the council itself, and not in the post of its speaker. Its internal practices must demonstrate observance of democratic traditions.

Vice President al-Bid viewed development as a principal program for the unified state and a primary concern for the Council of Representatives and the upcoming government. The Council of Representatives should use consolidated security and stability to promote our development endeavor. We must demonstrate honorable competition to develop our country. Besides, all sectors, including the public, private, cooperative, and mixed sectors, must be granted the opportunity to engage in this competition. We must formulate a development plan that is commensurate with our resources.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid concluded by saying: I cannot see any value for oil unless it is used for the promotion of industry and agriculture, and also for the creation of balanced development at home—development that takes into account the circumstances of the country as a whole. Such a development should not be centered in major cities. In this regard, he noted the negative impact of development on various social services in major cities.

Former President Comments on Elections, Politics

PM2804140193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 5

[Interview with former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] Yemen is currently preparing to lay the foundation of a new stage of constitutional legitimacy through the parliamentary elections. Why have you not returned to participate in them?

['Ali Nasir] I made my decision after thorough consideration and assessment of political conditions in Yemen. I saw that it was not right to decide to return prior to the parliamentary elections, out of my desire not to allow my return to be exploited in the political argument taking place among the parties as a result of these elections and the other issues which are a source of dispute. Perhaps you realize that my decision stems from a strong desire to reinforce national unity and Yemeni unity. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Will you return to Yemen if political and security conditions deteriorate after the elections as a result of some party's nonacceptance of the election results?

['Ali Nasir] I do not at all wish matters to reach the point you referred to. And as long as the elections are impartial and honest, everyone must accept the results, because they represent the voters' will, otherwise what is the benefit of talking about the peaceful rotation of power and about democracy. At any rate, it is premature to give an opinion of this question, because we would be running ahead of events. However, I sincerely hope that things will get better and that the focus will be on resolving the difficult issues and questions or those which received insufficient attention during the transitional period. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] What are the political parties in Yemen which are the closest to your positions? And with whom do you prefer to coordinate in the event of your return?

['Ali Nasir] I have cordial relations with all political and party forces, national figures, tribal chiefs, notables, and all groups of the people. And despite the contacts these forces have made with me, I believe the decision regarding my return is a personal one. I will make it at the right time. But in principle, I support all those who care about Yemeni unity, national unity, and democracy—those who care about our Yemeni people's security and stability. They exist today and will exist tomorrow. And I make contacts with all or most parties, as I said. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] What is the position of the Armed Forces elements loyal to you in the present elections? And what about the future prospects for these elections in view of the tendency to achieve the "complete merger" or "unification" of the Armed Forces?

['Ali Nasir] The forces you spoke about are an integral part of the Yemeni national forces. What applies to their other brothers in the Yemeni Armed Forces applies to them. The situation you talk about is erroneous and temporary. It is one of the errors of the transitional period, when there has been no rush to unify the Armed Forces.

This is why I hate to hear that these forces belong to so and so and those forces belong to so and so. This is because the Armed Forces' loyalty should be to the homeland. They should protect it and its sovereignty. Besides, with regard to the elections, it is up to each voter to decide for whom to vote. He will vote for the person whom he believes represents his interests more than others.

[Hammudah] How would you assess the Yemeni leadership's performance during the transitional period? And what are the errors for which you blame it?

['Ali Nasir] I expressed my view early with regard to the achievement of Yemeni unity. And events quickly

proved that my view was right. The Yemeni leadership made its first gross mistake when it decided—in contravention of the Constitution in the unified state—to increase the transitional period to two and half years, when the Constitution stipulates six months. That was the first breach of the the Constitution and the legitimacy of the unified state.

Then the leadership made a graver mistake when it decided the principle of sharing power between the two ruling parties only. It ignored the other political parties' and forces' role in participating in building the unified state. These resulted in a series of other mistakes which soon affected political, economic, security, and living conditions. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] You support the establishment of a democratic unionist party in Yemen. Does that conflict with present party pluralism? And what are the prospects for it in view of some Yemeni Socialist Party elements' opposition to the option of unifying the party and the People's Congress?

['Ali Nasir] If the question is about merging the Socialist Party and the People's Congress into one party, as is being proposed, it is up to the grass roots of the two parties. If the two parties' organizations, including the general congress of either party, decide to merge themselves into one party, it is up to them alone and to the circumstances and proposals on which they rely.

But some people fear that the aim from such a process could be to circumvent democracy and party pluralism, which is still in the embryo stage, in order to monopolize power and hence prevent the achievement of the peaceful rotation of power. These people are entitled to express this fear or concern. [passage omitted]

Opposition Meets With Gore; Barzani Comments

JN2904084493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Text] During a reception yesterday afternoon for an Iraqi opposition delegation, which is currently visiting Washington, Vice President Albert Gore affirmed the U.S. determination to obtain the Iraqi Government's full compliance with all Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 688, which stipulates that the Iraqi Government should halt repression against the Iraqi people.

Gore expressed Washington's persistent concern over human rights violations in Iraq. Gore added that for this reason, the United States called for the formation of a UN agency to investigate the Iraqi regime's crimes against mankind. The U.S. State Department announced that it had began consultations with its allies at the United Nations in this regard.

The Iraqi opposition delegation met with Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday. Yesterday, it met with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, Vice President Gore, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian. This is the first time a U.S. vice president has met with an Iraqi opposition delegation. The delegation is made up of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party; Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum; Salah al- Shaykhali; Hasan al-Naqib; and 'Aziz 'Alyan.

Iraqi opposition and U.S. sources said that the U.S. side categorically denied all claims stating that the new U.S. Administration could effect a reconciliation or even start a dialogue with the current Iraqi Government. Mas'ud Barzani said that the visit dispelled the doubts cast about the new administration's attitude toward Iraq over the past few months. Barzani added:

[Begin recording] As a matter of fact, prior to our arrival in the United States, we were concerned. As you are well aware, conflicting statements were made by the new administration. However, during these meetings, particularly the meeting with the vice president, we become confident about the U.S. policy toward Iraq. The U.S. officials affirmed that they will honor all their commitments to the Iraqi people, and that they will not allow terrorism to be practiced against them. [end recording]

Barzani also welcomed Washington's decision to act to put the Baghdad regime on trial on charges of committing crimes against mankind. He noted that the new administration is serious in this regard, whereas the Bush administration had some reservations on the issue.

Resistance Claims Killing 77 in Operation in South

NC2804150493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1345 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Reports from Iraq said the heroes of the Islamic resistance carried out the second al-'Alqami hero operation, attacking the 4th Army Corp and inflicting the following losses on it:

1. Destroying the 3rd Regiment of the 422d Brigade of the 18th Division and controlling its positions.

2. Killing seven officers of various ranks.

3. Killing 70 mercenaries.

The revolutionaries of the Islamic resistance captured two 60-mm mortar guns, two machine guns, four RBG-7's, 20 Kalashnikov rifles, and a variety of ammunition. According to the latest reports, the heroes of the Islamic resistance are still in the liberated positions and water is still flooding heavily through the opening they made in the earthen dam in the operation theater in the al-'Amarah marshlands.

Iranian Diplomat Summoned Over 26 Apr Shelling

JN2804161393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi Foreign Ministry today summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

The head of Neighboring Countries Section at the ministry communicated to the Iranian diplomat Iraq's strong protest over the Iranian shelling of civilian areas inside Iraq on 26 April.

The Iraqi official described the hostile Iranian military activities against civilian areas inside Iraq as a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and national soil, a blatant breach of UN Security Council Resolution 598, and a glaring example of interference in Iraq's domestic affairs going against all principles of good-neighborliness.

The head of the Neighboring Countries Section at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry briefed the Iranian charge d'affaires on the results of his country's shelling of Iraqi territory, including the killing and wounding of a number of defenseless citizens and the displacement of others from their homes and villages.

Iraq reaffirmed that it reserves its full right to demand compensation, to respond to these hostile actions, and to do whatever it deems appropriate to maintain its rights, legitimate interests, and its citizens' lives and property.

Envoy, Arab League Chief View Embargo

JN2804151793 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, Apr. 28. INA—The Secretary-General of the Arab League Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received today the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the League Nabil Najm and discussed with him a number of issues related to Iraq.

After the meeting, Mr. Najm told reporters that he discussed with the secretary-general the issue of the continued violation of the American, British and French air planes of the Iraqi air space taking off from Saudi and Kuwaiti territories.

He pointed out that the continuation of flying of the allies' planes over Iraqi air space constituted an infringe of the international law and a source of threat to pan-Arab security.

Mr. Najm indicated that he also discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the leagu's role in exerting efforts to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

He stressed Iraq's keenness to develop joint Arab action with the aim of consolidating pan-Arab security.

The Iraqi official refuted dubious claims on what was called Kuwaiti hostages in Iraq saying Iraq had cooperated with the International Committee of the Red Cross and its envoys as well as the Arab League's secretariat general according to the law in order to close this chapter.

Saddam's Birthday Celebrated in Hometown Military Parade

NC2804160793 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Tikrit, Iraq, April 28 (AFP)—Some 1,000 Iraqi soldiers, hundreds of armored vehicles and other war machines paraded through President Saddam Husayn's hometown here Wednesday to mark his 56th birthday.

Czechoslovak- and Swiss-made planes roared overhead as elite Republican Guard troops marched with 300 Soviet-made tanks and other armored vehicles, 100 artillery pieces and anti-aircraft guns, and 12 multiple rocket launchers.

Thousands of residents of Tikrit—a town on the Tigris River about 180 kilometers (112 miles) north of Baghdad—danced, sang and proclaimed their loyalty to Saddam Husayn.

Posters of the president were plastered on the town's squat buildings and songs praised him as the "pride of the Iraqis."

Like a larger parade held in Baghdad Monday, this show of force was also dubbed "the Mother of all Battles," a reference to the 1991 war that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Diplomats in Baghdad saw the parades as a signal from Saddam Husayn that the U.S.-led Gulf war coalition had failed to bring him to his knees.

Banners here called "Saddam, hero of victory and peace" and the BABIL newspaper, run by Saddam's son 'Udayy, predicted there would be "a reunion soon with our people in Kuwait."

General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice president of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al- Zubaydi and Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid attended the two- hour event.

There was no sign of the president.

But on Monday Saddam Husayn was shown on television attending the parade in the Iraqi capital, the first held by the army since the Gulf war.

Surface-to-surface Tariq, Ra'd and Ababil missiles on mobile rocket launchers alongside more than 15,000 soldiers featured in the three-hour display.

According to Iraqi sources, these missiles have a range of less than 150 kilometers (90 miles) and are not banned by the United Nations, which has demanded the elimination of all of Iraq's non- conventional weapons.

Unlike the Tikrit parade, foreign journalists were not invited to the one in the capital.

The Iraqi army, whose numbers were reduced by 40 percent after the Gulf war, currently has some 400,000 men, and can count on support from an air force estimated to have more than 300 warplanes at its disposal.

Tikrit lies 200 kilometers (124 miles) south of the air exclusion zone imposed in 1991 over northern Iraq by the United States, Britain and France to protect that region's Kurdish population.

Further on Birthday Celebration

JN2804181593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad,28 Apr (INA)—In Salah-al-Din Governorate today, a central festival and the Mother of Battles military parade were held on the occasion of leader President Saddam Husayn's birthday. They were held under the slogan: "The Birthday of Leader Saddam Husayn Is a Revival of the Spirit of Iraq and the Arab Nation."

The festival was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who cut a ribbon to signal the beginning of the festival. [passage omitted]

At the start of the activities of the Mother of Battles military parade, the commander of the parade advanced to ask permission of Staff Gen. 'Izzat, RCC vice chairman and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to display units representing the corps and formations of the Armed Forces. The parade was led by the motorcade of the commander of the parade and the carriers of the flags of Iraq, the emblem of the Republic of Iraq, a portrait of leader President Saddam Husayn, the emblem of the festival, and the flags of the Arab countries.

Staff Gen. 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, saluted the parading columns, which represented the First Military College, the command of the Baghdad Forces-Republican Guards, the al-'Abid Forces Command-Republican Guards, the field artillery, the Air Defense, the military engineering cadre, tracked personnel carriers, tanks, and wheeled vehicles.

The festival was attended by Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, RCC member and prime minister; 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister; members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; ministers, heads of the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; the Army chief of staff; members of the General Command of the Armed Forces; Army corps commanders; governors; secretaries of the commands of Ba'th Party branches in the governorates; members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Iraq; and Muhammad 'Awad al-Hasan, governor of the Central Region in fraternal Sudan.

At the end of the festival, participants sent a cable to leader President Saddam Husayn in which they reiterated the pledge that they will remain united behind the banner of God is Great carried by his excellency in defense of great Iraq.

Saddam Receives Cable From Jordan

JN2804185393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on his excellency's auspicious birthday. Following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, president of the Republic of Iraq. Baghdad.

It pleases me to take this opportunity on your birthday to send to Your Excellency, in my own name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, our warmest, heartfelt congratulations and sincerest, brotherly wishes. I beseech God Almighty to grant you continuous health, happiness, and success, and the fraternal Iraqi people continued progress and prosperity.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

'Fourth Part' of Saddam's al-Faw Meeting

JN2704053393 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Apr 93 pp 2, 3

["Text of the fourth part" of the proceedings of a meeting Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held with "brave military commanders and several officials who had the honor of taking part in the Blessed Ramadan Operation to liberate al-Faw," on 18 April; place not given]

[Text] [Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim Hammash, commander of al-Madinah al-Munawwarah Forces—the Republican Guard—during the liberation of al-Faw] Speakers have not left us any details of the battle for al-Faw, which was actually a great epic, but not the greatest one. I object to some brothers' views because the battles that followed the al-Faw battle added new lessons to the lessons derived from the al-Faw battle. There were more lessons to be learned from the al-Zubaydat battle than from the al-Faw battle, despite the tactical difficulties encountered on the al-Faw battlefield. I would like to prove that there are other battles resembling the al-Faw liberation battle which contain more lessons, in terms of military operations and the use of units.

Sir, we have to describe the battlefield of the al-Faw liberation operations because it is not known to the Iraqis and several other people. Within the sector of my command, I had the honor of carrying out part of the second chapter of the Republican Guard Command, as the first chapter was carried out by my command, which was in control of the coastal column of Khawr 'Abdallah extending to junctions 24 and 26. On my left were the Baghdad Forces. So, the first and second chapters were carried out by the Republican Guard Command.

The operational sector of my command was one of the most difficult areas. The area opposite my forces was covered with more water than other areas. On my right, an area more than 1,200-meters wide was also covered with water, and the water in the other part of the area was 1-meter deep. The soldiers had to cross the area to fortified enemy positions. This occurred with the tide, but when there was an ebb, the water became shallow and the land was covered with antipersonnel mines.

The density of salt in the area facilitated the movement of the mines, and the more abundant the water, the more the ebb and tide facilitated the movement of mines.

I faced the major problem of how to control the mines and open breaches in the mine fields. We tried many ways to stop the movement of mines. Every time I opened a breach in the mine field, the ebb and tide refilled the area with mines the next day. I suffered much from that problem, and I was obliged to use the cablon [name as published] because the antipersonnel mines did not float on water, but remained near the bottom. As the mines were pushed by water, we were forced to use

barriers to stop them and keep the breaches open for the fighters. We informed the Republican Guard commander of this.

There were large numbers of holes in my sector, on the coastal road, or at junctions located between junctions 15 and 16. After sensing that the battles would erupt, the enemy began to destroy roads. This made us exert great efforts to prepare sandbags to fill these holes and enable armored units to cross to the other side.

These holes were of various depths and we had to use different methods to ensure that the soldiers' feet would not become trapped. These included the use of simple ladders made of qugh wood [khashab al-qugh] and wooden boards from ammunition boxes. We fastened these boards together, or tied them with ropes to make a sort of a bridge which we could stretch across everywhere we wanted. We placed triangular supports like those used by carpenters to saw wood, and when we wanted to make a bridge, we would tie these pieces together until we reached the point we wanted to reach.

We benefited from this technique in another away. When we threw those bridges over antipersonnel mine fields, there would be a gap between them and the ground, so when a soldier walked on them he would not step on mines. In fact, we made hundreds of these ladders to use for that specific purpose.

The other thing we did was use high-density sponge cushions. We bought high density sponge cushions, and each soldier was carrying a bag with these cushions inside. This was not known to the media before. We did some tests; the soldier could unfasten these cushions, which were connected to each other, and stretch them as far as he wanted and then walk on them. To make the soldier trust this technique and walk on mines without fear of them exploding under his feet, we made several tests to assure him that these high density sponge cushions would protect him against fragments and mines. We made a large quantity of these cushions for use by the fighters.

We were supposed to make a landing with two Navy brigades. These were the brigades about which the former Navy commander spoke. I could not sleep at night thinking how I could rescue a boat which might get stranded in Khawr 'Abdallah with a wounded person on board. I tried really hard in that respect, and had many meetings with the Navy commander to help alleviate my fear as a commander with a side battle. My main concern was to occupy, retake, and liberate the land. If I started to worry about losses in boats and souls, then this would divert my attention from the main battle and waste my efforts.

I have secured all safety measures. I placed a quantity of cement in the bottom of each boat and brought wood logs and oars from al-'Amarah. I equipped every boat with a rope so that it could be pulled by other boats if it broke down. I also thought of assigning at least two boat operators to each squad. I thought about using the 16th Special Forces Brigade, because I was told that I should consider that issue and that I would be asked to make a landing. I had only the 16th Brigade or the 11th Commando Brigade, which was part of a battle formation. But when the Navy came, I was thinking really hard about how to ensure that the naval units could reach their target when I did not know their resources and troop level since I did not train them. I was really happy when the decision was amended and the naval units were used on the ground. On the left wing, all the heavily fortified positions, including the headquarters of the 26th Division, were within my sector. When the units went on the offensive, I attacked with two brigades, starting with the 16th Special Forces Brigade, which I trained well and had under my command for a long time. I had used it in airborne operations and made it go through tough exercises, during which minor sacrifices were made.

I used the 6th Brigade on the left flank, and given the morale of this brigade and the flatness of the terrain, it succeeded in overrunning all its set targets in the marsh and then reaching al-Hammar canal no. 1 and establishing a foothold on the other side within 45 minutes. The commander of the brigade contacted me to say that he had accomplished his mission, on which I congratulated him.

The engineering effort began at the same time as the offensive; the principal concern being to open the roads. It was not a mean feat to open the roads running through this water-covered area.

As for the 16th Brigade, over which Your Excellency had contacted me twice, things did not go as smoothly. This is because the tide was high, so the plan for the offensive was exposed. The targets in the enemy positions were relatively fortified, because the heavy enemy machine guns were primarily facing the sea in the direction of Khawr 'Abdallah, and were mounted so as to face the placement of the 16th Brigade. The place was 1200-meters wide and the soldiers had to wade through it, the water being more than waist high.

Having assured myself that the 6th Brigade was in extremely good position, I thought to help the 16th Brigade, two regiments of which had accomplished the first phase. I returned to Khawr 'Abdallah through this brigade. I then isolated the Iranian positions and closed in on them, and I had the 6th Brigade units make a retreat on the enemy positions, that is from the rear. I thought of leaving Special Forces with the 16th Brigade to keep its morale high. I told its commander that there were two posts for him to occupy. At the same time, I was to attack Project 71 with the 11th Commando Brigade, which was in charge of the Special Forces regiment. That was one of the best regiments in the Republican Guard. I kept a regiment in case the 6th Regiment of the 11th Brigade was put in a tight spot. At the same time, I attacked Project 71 and occupied it, thus completing the first and second phases at once, the interval between the two being no more than 10 minutes.

I think that Your Excellency and the defense minister, may his soul rest in peace, learned about this. The comment he, may his soul rest in peace, made was to say that it was impossible for me to have occupied the two areas simultaneously in this record time.

The units were moving at a fast pace, were occupying their designated targets, and were followed by other units tasked with securing other targets.

Having completed the second phase—the Republican Guard had two phases—I decided on a third, since the naval brigades were bulky and were not in such a good position, with some of them possessing carriers. I had to cross part of the 10th Armored Brigade after partially opening the road; the brigade pushed forward until Naval Brigades 440 and 441 arrived, and then pushed forward and occupied the rear positions of Project 81 [as published].

Thus al-Faw was behind me and on my left, and my forces completed the liberation of all the targets within 24 hours.

One of the things that I still remember is the simplicity and straightforwardness of the plan. As a commander, I witnessed daily the high morale of the units, as well a their determination to achieve their objectives. I had formulated alternative plans in the event of one of the brigades or regiments failing to accomplish its mission.

Cooperation among the units was excellent, both within the command itself and between commanders. I remember that the second brigade of the Baghdad Forces was late in returning to me because the gap for which it was responsible was too big, and when the tanks crossed, they needed more time. The brother commander of the Baghdad Forces beefed up my forces with several tanks that had arrived via the strategic road. He beefed up my forces and I, for my part, assisted him.

The brigade commanders were cooperative and helpful. For the record, I also say that the commander of the 6th Brigade, who is now the director of physical training, was always willing to do all that I asked of him. He never hesitated to perform any of his duties. His morale was very high. The fighters of the first stage used ropes, as one of the comrades said. This was in my sector, because there were many deep ditches caused by the swift water current. They used the ropes to pull each other and to help those fighters who could not swim to cross the way.

A large number of fighters from the 6th Brigade attacked their targets barefooted. This is because the water level was so high that it often reached their waists. When a soldier attacks such a muddy and spongy area, his boots and clothes become very heavy. So, we ordered them to take off their clothes before the attack. After they attacked their targets and occupied them, we gave them their clothes at the other end. A 6th Brigade squad captured about 100 Iranian soldiers affiliated with a field medical unit near the headquarters of the 26th Division. Many weapons, rounds of ammunition, and self-propelled guns were also seized in my sector. We are ready to perform any duty. God willing, we will not fail to do that. God willing, Iraq's flag will continue to flutter high under your leadership, Sir, and in the presence of everyone. Thank you, Sir.

[Saddam Husayn] Let Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar Muhammad speak now. We want you to give us examples of the great fighters who emerged while in combat, and how they sacrificed themselves to protect their fellow fighters from enemy fire.

[Staff Lt. Gen. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar Muhammad, commander of the Hamurabi Forces—the Republican Guard—during the liberation of al-Faw] Sir, I was involved in the battle for al-Faw in its two phases; the first was when the enemy occupied it in 1986, I was then the commander of the 10th Armored Brigade, affiliated with the Republican Guard; and the second was when I commanded the Hamurabi Forces. The truth is that we were never away from al-Faw during the two years of occupation. We used to visit there every week. The 10th Armored Brigade used to defend the strategic line under the command of the 7th Division. I stayed there for 14 days until the situation had settled. The brigade then withdrew to the al-Barjisiyah area, and then we commenced training. At one of the late 'Adnan Khayrallah's press conferences, he said that al-Faw must be liberated because it is Iraqi and will continue to be Iraqi. It must be liberated. This had encouraged all the units. As the brothers said, al-Faw's occupation has agonized all Iraqis, and the Armed Forces in particular. This was the result of two factors; the first was the tough terrain, and the second was the harsh nature of the battlefield. This is in addition to the heavy losses our forces sustained when the Iranians occupied al-Faw. The 40-day battle agonized some of our units in a way which created a state of reaction by everyone. So, a psychological mobilization of all fighters was necessary.

The Military Department or the Military Guidance Department in the Republican Guard formulated a plan for morale mobilization in the presence of comrade Staff Brigadier General Latif Hammud. The plan boosted the morale of the fighters in no small way and, for our part, we instilled in them the feeling that as members of the Republican Guard, for us, the liberation of al-Faw was a debt we had to redeem at all costs.

In every exercise, lecture, or meeting, and even at breaks between exercises, we hammered away at the name of al-Faw and discussed how to liberate it, with the result being that fighters could not wait to get to al-Faw so that they could remove that burden from their chests.

[Saddam, interrupting] The moral commitment.

[Muhammad] It is the moral commitment. It was a massive mobilization led by Your Excellency, as well as by brothers in the Political Guidance Department and the party. We had attained a high degree of excellence in the use of weapons and in technical skills. We focused

our attention on the preparatory stage. We never tired in battle, because the effort invested in the preparatory stage was huge, with the units having spent anywhere from 10 to 14 solid hours training every day in temperatures sometimes reaching 40 or 45 degrees centigrade. We used to spent so much time on technical details.

During one of the exercises, I realized that the targeting of our artillery was less than accurate—a fact I reported to our commander. We were not certain if the shells were hitting their targets. We reckoned that an artillery shell that did not score a direct hit, within 25 meters, must be considered a miss.

Hence our concentration on practice shooting from a technical point of view, and we introduced many changes to the tanks to which we attached mine sweepers and scratchers, because the T-72 tank is not equipped with scratchers. This proved very useful in battle.

So, the effort made in the preparatory stage was truly great and stood us in good stead during the execution stage. The Republican Guard had reached a remarkable level of training that was evident during the battles for liberation. They were extremely flexible. On the day of liberation, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan asked me to push regiments toward al-Faw; to attack al-Faw with one regiment was not part of our plan. The plan called for an attack to be made with two brigades, namely the 20th Brigade and the 12th Commando Brigade. During the attack, the minister called and ordered that I immediately push a regiment in the direction of al-Faw. My response was to say that I was prepared. The regiment did enter al-Faw at 3:00 and accomplished its mission.

[Saddam, interrupting] The plan was for you to spend the night outside al-Faw, and then to start the offensive in the early hours of the day.

[Muhammad] Yes, that is correct. The task I was assigned to achieve by the command was the third chapter of the offensive. After the al-Madinah al-Munawarrah and the Baghdad Forces achieved the first and second chapters of the offensive on Day (X), I was instructed to begin the offensive in the early hours of Day (X) plus one. As a matter of fact, Your Excellency contacted me on Day (X); that is, on 17 April, at approximately 1200 hours, and told me that I would be responsible for hoisting the Iraqi flag over al-Faw. I felt then that I had to accomplish a mission. I was so impatient that I could not wait for the start of the next day, particularly since I heard that the al-Madinah al-Munawarrah and Baghdad Forces achieved significant objectives during the first chapter of the offensive. That is why I got into the car immediately and came to Your Excellency and told you that I could not wait until the start of the next day.

A discussion was held with the late minister of defense, may God's mercy be upon him, on whether we should conduct an airborne landing in Field Area 81, or whether we should begin the offensive using the Hamurabi troops. Your Excellency instructed me to sound out the views of the commanders of the Hamurabi and Baghdad Forces in this regard. Meanwhile, I pushed my formations forward, because the Hamurabi formations were behind Cooperation Road No. 4; that is, they were approximately 12 km from the target positions seized during the first chapter of the offensive. This meant that I needed a lot of time to make them reach their target positions. That is why I pushed the troops forward and forged ahead. I established my headquarters near the headquarters of the al-Madinah al-Munawarrah troops so that I could benefit from their transportation services. The difficulty in accomplishing the tasks of the Hamurabi troops lay in the fact that their targets were unidentified. The situation was so unclear that I could not delineate the nature of the plan I had to carry out on the battlefield.

I began the offensive at 2000 hours on Day (X). The command accomplished all its objectives, God be praised, before 1400 hours on Day (X) plus one. I arrived in al-Faw and raised the Iraqi flag there at 1600 hours on that day.

One of the lessons learned from the al-Faw battle concerns the effort put into the preparations for this battle. Indeed, it was a strenuous effort. We considered all the details pertaining to the battle. We took the worst probabilities into account when we were training for that battle. The training was arduous. We underwent various levels of training and reached a good training status. Thank you, Sir.

[Saddam] I would like to begin by saying that the Iraqi Army's traditions stipulate that training should stop when the temperature reaches a certain level. I recall having said then: No, we must train our troops to adapt themselves to enduring thirst and all types of hardships in extremely hot weather.

[Staff Lt. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahid Shinan Al Ribat, commander of the Republican Guard Baghdad Forces during the battle for al-Faw] Mr. Leader President, I joined the Republican Guard Baghdad Forces in the aftermath of the Great Harvest battles. I was assigned the post of commander of the 11th Infantry Division. The Baghdad troops were deployed in two sectors: Three brigades in al-Qurnah; namely, the 4th and 6th Brigades as well as the 21st Commando Brigade and two other brigades in al-Sulaymaniyah; namely, the 7th and 5th Brigades. The 3d Special Forces Brigade as well as the 16th Special Forces Brigade, which were the commander in chief's reserve units deployed in the northern sector when the Mawat battles were in full swing, were placed at the disposal of the 7th and 5th Brigades.

When the two brigades attached to my division were in al-Sulaymaniyah, we underwent a training course to benefit from the mountainous terrain there. The training exercise featured mountain climbing and cross-country hiking. The fighters attained a high degree of physical

fitness. That was the reason behind my choice of the 5th and the 7th Brigades in the first phase of the battle for the liberation of al-Faw.

After we returned to the southern sector and received instructions from the commander of the Republican Guard forces regarding the tasks and simulating fields similar to those of al-Faw, the dried area in the marshland was chosen as training field for the Baghdad Forces. That area was characteristically hard to cross; the earth was so boggy that we had to pull out some of the fighters using ropes because they were sucked into the mire and muck. The training sessions were long; Your Excellency's instructions called for training to continue under all kinds of circumstances and at all times of the day. When you visited them during the battle, the fighters told me that the training had taken their toll on them, whereas things in al-Faw were relatively easy, because training took place on more solid ground than in al-Faw.

The Baghdad Forces contributed to the completion of the first phase; the 7th and 5th Brigades were in the Baghdad Forces sector, and the 6th Brigade was in the al-Madinah al-Munawarrah Forces sector. This is not to forget the fire protection provided by the tank battalion of the 10th Armored Brigade that was attached to the Baghdad Forces. It had a direct impact on the enemy targets on which we had prior training. The enemy targets were drawn on the training field. One of the officers, a platoon commander, crept to an enemy point of fire, which was a machine gun. He was engaged in hand-to-hand combat with an Iranian soldier, who shot him dead, but the platoon commander's soldiers managed to kill the Iranian soldier. This story was communicated to Your Excellency and you posthumously honored him.

[Saddam] Yes indeed. The soldier went into the enemy emplacement where an Iranian fighter was ensconced and had an advantageous position over the platoon of the martyred soldier, may his soul rest in peace. There, the late Iraqi soldier sought to occupy this emplacement; he entered it from the hole of the machine gun. Of course, the Iranian soldier was able to open fire on him, but he managed to wrest the machine gun from him before he died, and subsequently the Iraqi fighters managed to kill the Iranian soldier.

[Al Ribat] The plan was amended. The Republican Guard commander called me at 9:00 [AM or PM not specified] to ask me, upon the orders of his excellency the president, to prepare a brigade of the Baghdad Forces under the command of the Baghdad Forces commander to be transported by helicopter to conduct a landing operation on the Ras Bishah bridge. We prepared the 21st Commando Brigade. At around 11:00 [AM or PM not specified] we received word that weather conditions were not favorable. I asked the commander about that. He said the pilots had stated that the Iranian enemy had begun withdrawing from the area; accordingly the command did not see a need for a landing on the bridge.

When the 3d Brigade—Special Forces—managed to occupy the targets of the second phase, it was charged with holding a bridge north of al-Faw; and so the brigade pushed forward, and I visited it in the morning and found that a number of Iranians had been taken prisoner. They were nude, having sought to swim across Shatt al-'Arab, since there was no bridge to the north of al-Faw, and the 3d brigade—Special Forces—had reached its targets.

Sir, the battle to liberate al-Faw was great indeed because it provided the key for the fighters to continue with the other battles of liberation. Consequently, the battle for al-Faw is particularly significant because it was the first following the psychological stress which our fighters faced during the 1986 al-Faw battles, the battles in the north, and the battles of Operation Great Harvest. Therefore this battle was a good omen to the other battles of liberation. Some of the brigade commanders were even upset with the command headquarters because they were not given a role to play in the first phase. This clearly confirms the fighters's high morale, ideological awareness, training.

Sir, we have also taken pride in the fact that the Baghdad Forces, which I still miss, achieved their objectives in the al-Faw battle and subsequent battles of liberation without any delay. The Republican Guard commander was treating us as if we were mechanized or armored units and wanted us to move quickly to the targets, and I used to tell him that I travel on foot, not on a tracked vehicle.

Sir Leader President, the 4th Republic Guard Brigade wanted to avenge the 1986 battles with the Iranians. At that time, and because of the little information we had, the brigade came under enemy fire while it was still being transported. In the al-Faw liberation battle, the brigade took its revenge. Although we were worried that the brigade might still be under shock from the previous battles, we decided to give it a role in occupying the fortified position in al-Faw in the third stage. The leader president had instructed that we make the brigade regain confidence and balance in the first stage. Consequently, we gave it a role in the third stage to occupy an al-Faw fortification and it indeed occupied the fortification sooner than scheduled. Thank you, Mr. Leader President.

[Saddam] Thank you.

[Staff Lt. Gen. Najm-al-Din 'Abdallah Muhammad, director of military movements during the liberation of al-Faw] Mr. Leader President, the brothers spoke about massing of troops as one of the principles of war which demonstrated itself clearly during the battle for the liberation of al-Faw. I assumed the post of the director of military movements in July 1987. I attended the expanded meeting of the Armed Forces General Command on 27 September 1987. You were present at that meeting. You asked about the plan, and the General Command began work to secure the requirements of the battle.

Sir, through my work as a director of military movements, and within the framework of achieving this principle, our action was confined to two directions: The first was related to the responsibility of the Directorate of Planning for studying the requirements of Army corps on the formations level, and the Directorate of Military Movements on the unit level and below. Regarding the pursuit of unit movements after approving allocations by the Army chief of staff, the responsibility of the Directorate of Military Movements—which was entrusted with securing the requirements of transportation and with following up the units' movements pursuant to Your Excellency's orders—was finding the ways and means of securing an important factor; namely the element of surprise regarding the massing of units. Among the measures taken was that when we wanted to move one of the formations or an artillery unit affiliated with the 7th Army Corps sector or with the Republican Guard forces commands, we used to dispatch them to the 4th Army Corps of the 3d Army Corps as forward posts without informing the concerned corps that this unit does not belong to its sector in order to deal with it as any unit affiliated with their sector. Afterwards, we used to dispatch these units to the concerned sector before the execution of the plan.

Mr. President: The Army chief of staff and his assistant for operations were at the Armed Forces General Headquarters during the period when I was asked to be in charge of Military Transport. This greatly facilitated and expedited making decisions to mobilize units, especially before the al-Faw battle. The reason is that when both men were at the Headquarters, all requirements would be studied and referred to the assistant chief of staff for operations and then the chief of staff would give his approval at once, since he was present at the General Headquarters. Decisions would then be issued to the units. So their presence at the General Headquarters helped to expedite the requirements of the battle and mobilize units at the time and place required.

Mr. President: During our mobilization of the units, we had to devise methods in connection with the artillery, which needs carriers. We tested tank-carriers to see whether we could transport more than one artillery piece on each carrier, or on vehicles that could transport 35 tonnes. We succeeded in our endeavor.

In reply to what some of the brothers here have suggested, I say, based on my current post, that the al-Faw battle is currently being taught at the military college. The combat directorate was also told to add the liberation battles as basic themes to the military history course given to students of the military college.

Regarding the remarkable coordination at the command level during the al-Faw battle, I attended more than one meeting and saw the coordination between corps, the Air Force, and the Army with regard to assigning missions and the timing of operations. Several headquarters were established for this purpose. For example, Maj. Gen. Basim Dhu-al-Nun, then artillery commander, was asked to be in charge of an artillery headquarters in the southern sector, with seven artillery battalions under his command for counter bombardment. This arrangement was made during the battle without previous planning.

Mr. President: The al-Faw battle will remain a great lesson for our Armed Forces, since it was a key battle for successive victories in other major battles of liberation. We ask God to grant us success. We also wish you a long life. Thank you.

[Staff Lt. Gen. Yaljin 'Umar 'Adil, commander of the Sixth Corps and the alternate commander of the Republican Guard in the al-Faw liberation battle] Mr. President: Two days before the battle, the assistant for operations, Lt. Gen Husayn Rashid, called me and asked me to take a vacation. Battles were raging in Halabjah and the Republican Guard units were training in our sector, so it was clear that something was being cooked up and it was not the right time for leave. Add to this the fact that I was not eligible for leave then. But the assistant insisted that I enjoy my leave.

Only a day later, however, Lt. Gen. 'Ala' called me to tell me that the leader president, may God protect him, had asked that I join the Republican Guard as an alternate commander. The plane was waiting for me at al-Muthanna airport, so I boarded the plane and arrived at al-Shu'aybah airport at around 0930 on 17 April. I then found out that the leave business was a ploy. The assistant for operations, I thought, would not give me a one-hour leave, so how come he gives me leave even before it is due. Afterward, I joined the Republican Guard commander, and found that everything was set perfectly.

The president leader addressing Staff Lieutenant General Diya' al-Din Jamal: Have you paid attention to this interpretation? The person who was appointed as alternate commander of the Republican Guard which had a role in al-Faw battle, as had the 7th Corps, has also felt that there are units from the Republican Guard and other forces...and so forth. [sentence incomplete as published] He wanted to ask what was happening. I was told that Staff Lieutenant General Yaljin 'Umar 'Adil was asking questions. When he was given leave, he wondered what was happening. He began asking: Shall I really take my leave or not? They told him: Yes, enjoy it. However, they summoned him the next day and told him: Go assume your new post as you have been appointed alternate commander of the Republican Guard.

The purpose of all this is to dispel doubts. When a corps commander is given leave all those in his corps who had doubts will no longer have these doubts. This is because it is inconceivable to give leave to the commander of the corps whose units are near the Republican Guard if he has important work to perform within or near his corps.

[Staff Lt. Gen. Yaljin 'Umar 'Adil] Mr. President, the theatre of operations of the Republican Guard was in our sector of operations at the time. Thank you, Mr. President.

[Staff Major General Nawfal Isma'il Khudayyir, commander of the 6th Armored Division in al-Faw battle]: Mr. President, I became the division's commander in August 1986 after my transfer from the 8th Infanty Division. Four months later, the Great Day battle took place. I was tasked with purging al-Qit'ah and al-Shahiniyah islands and the battle was won.

Following this, we prepared very efficient training programs and we left for the desert where we stayed 100 days from June to 10 September. A meticulous testing of the division's units was carried out and it obtained first grades. I was summoned by your excellency and was awarded.

In December, or in January we left for the same place in the desert with the purpose of preparing for the al-Faw battle. Unfortunately, we did not spend much time there to complete our training because the Halabjah battles took place.

As a precuationary measure, the division returned to its sector. At the time, I was the most senior division coomander in the sector, and maybe in the Army because I had been division commander for four years.

I was very familiar with the area. I knew it inch by inch. The division's task within the 7th Corps sector was confined to carrying out an offensive from the strategic road to the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road. I had under my command six brigades in addition to the division's three brigades which are part of its system of battle, in addition to artillery and engineering units. I prepared a plan for the division in light of the trait for which I am famous, that of believing that victory is inevitably mine and not heeding any obstacle that may arise on any side. At 0445 we started with a barrage of artillery fire and our units at 0530 began their advance on two main axes and three secondary ones.

I was certain that destroying the forward positions was the key to a victory in al-Faw. Therefore, contrary to the orders of the 7th Army Corps, I shelled only the forward ramparts of the target for 45 minutes. I ordered the commanders of Brigades 95 and 14 to be in the front and to increase firepower so as spare our units any hits. As I expected, the first rampart was occupied after 12 minutes. We also captured prisoners. I informed the army corps commander that I had managed to capture enemy prisoners only 12 minutes after the beginning of the battle. Rightfully, he did not believe that at all.

Mr. President, I want to comment on a very important point on the night of the offensive. We informed the brigade commanders of our intention to attack only a day or a day and a half before the offensive. As for the commanders of regiments, they did not know that for certain, although they had suspicions.

Afterward, I met with the commanders. I must refer to and pay tribute to the late martyr Staff Brigadier General Tahir 'Abd-al-Rashid. He was with me in the logistics room in the forward headquarters. People there were surprised when the oath was taken. They knew then that we would launch the offensive to liberate al-Faw the next morning on 17 April. They were surprised because their brigades were not among the units of my division. They could not understand how they would cross such fords. Our duty covered the strategic road down to the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road. I asked them: Would you be able to cross the fords if there was no enemy in front of you? They said: Yes. This would be possible if there was no enemy. I said: Then, you will cross them from the front edge, until you reach the enemy lines. There will be no enemy forces in front of you. I affirmed that to them and swore to it.

I know the area well because I worked for over two years in the sector. I knew that one day the 6th Armored Division would take part in such a battle. I had formidable artillery along a 5-km front. I calculated it with them in feet and meters. We studied how we would strike and start a digging and search operation, as the brothers in the artillery corps call it. We wanted to turn the earth upside down underneath the enemy. In addition, tanks would participate in an organized and direct shelling. A company of tanks infiltrated into the forward ramparts at night. When (X) hour began, they found only eight enemy soldiers, who emerged like crazy people. They were captured and brought to me directly. The battle continued.

Directly afterward, I sent Brigades 429 and 107 to exploit the success and to capture the successive ramparts. They reached the canal. We managed to dispatch other regiments to the far bank of the canal. This was because I used massive artillery firepower. The only problem we faced was the delay of Brigade 16 on the left wing after the advancement of other brigades on the third stage because of the tanks' inability to ascend the rampart. Immediately and swiftly, we used the tip carriers which the director of planning mentioned. We buried the rampart, because even bulldozers could not dig it due to the solid soil.

Then, I sent late Tahir 'Abd-al-Rashid to the concerned brigade commander to verify that bulldozers could not dig through the rampart. He contacted me from there, and told me that it could not be dug with bulldozers.

Soil was then piled up on one side of the rampart so that it could be mounted by the tanks, one of which was stuck in the soil. It was then pulled out, and the soil was leveled. Brigade 16 managed to cross the barrier.

In the theoretical planning of the battle, our left wing was exposed. This also applies to the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road up to the palm line, where there was a 200-300 meter exposed strip because of the fall of palm trees.

When the offensive started, I estimated that we would be ahead of the Seventh Division, since there was a thick cover of palm trees which could be crossed only with great difficulty. This is exactly what happened. When the 16th Brigade began its attack, I instructed that a piece of artillery of every division should be directed toward the

palm cover and should continue to advance, because I had expected an attack from the flanks to obstruct our advance. The commander of the 107th Brigade indeed contacted me while the 16th Brigade was about to cross. He told me that eight tanks had crossed into their area and that they might get hurt. He asked me about the whereabouts of the 16th Brigade and wondered why it was late. The Army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and the assistant for operations were all present then. I spoke to him on the radio, giving him encouragement and telling him that he should handle these matters, noting there were only eight tanks, that he had several ramparts, and that he could use the guns, etc. He said he understood. Only five minutes later, he told me that two tanks had been destroyed and six others seized along with their personnel. We saw all of this, since the late Tahir 'Abd-al-Rashid and I were following developments on various axes.

The 16th and 30th Brigades kept the battle going. At sunset, the late Tahir 'Abd-al-Rashid and I went out and asked our units to return to their shelters.

I would like to mention a very important point here. At 1235, your excellency called me and we had a long conversation, perhaps because we had by then infiltrated too deep. Your excellency gave me instructions which I recorded at once. You told me that it was night and that the enemy was active at night, telling me I should protect my tanks. It was certainly a long conversation. I immediately carried out your instructions and communicated them to all units. The battle meanwhile continued. On the second day, the 30th Brigade faced minor resistance by the enemy detachments. I thought that the enemy would send the largest number of its troops through the Shatt al-'Arab. We managed to destroy all detachments in our way. I also sent the 25th Brigade at night because we needed infantry in the front. The 25th Brigade indeed managed to cross, considering that it was on reserve duty at that stage. The 25th Brigade replaced the 16th Brigade. The 25th and 30th Brigades continued to advance until we reached emplacement No. 42. Some of our detachments had already entered the city.

We made these arrangements thoroughly. Our faith was stronger than our technical preparations. Staff Lt. Gen Muhammad Fahmi, for example, asked during the training about the purpose of training when the enemy had already occupied al-Faw. I told him that this was the reason we were training. The morale of the division was very high, given its successful battles and high level of training. Our division got the first place in training exceeding all other motorized armored units, except the Republican Guard. We also luckily came first in the last contest, though the result of that contest was discounted. Seven months earlier, we were told that we had a distinguished division. We are only soldiers and we are good only for implementation, exactly like rifles which get rusty if they are not used or if they are loaded but kept hung on the wall for six years or for good.

Thank you very much.

[Staff Maj. Gen. Thamir Sultan Ahmad, commander of the 1st Mechanized Division in the al-Faw battle] Sir, I was appointed commander of the division on 24 February 1987, replacing Staff Lt. Gen. Salah 'Abbud, who was transferred to the 5th Mechanized Division. The 1st Division held a defensive posture in al-Fakkah region at the time.

The 1st Mechanized Division continued to hold a defensive posture for seven years in the al-Fakkah region. Its personnel underwent intensive training in various combat schools. At the beginning of 1987, the division was moved from te 4th Corps sectpr to the al- Duhays region near al-Zubayr district. Several intersecting ramparts were set up for the al-Faw field. We had to devise new methods to get soldiers used to wading through mud and water, since we did not have suitable terrain for that purpose. We asked every soldier to carry a bag of sand filled with around two kg of soil and let him walk through muddy land so as to train him how to cross through muddy, rugged terrain like that of al-Faw. We also conducted exercises with live ammunition and drills to cross ramparts and emplacements. We conducted very intensive training and reconnaissance. We had to predict what would happen to define the purpose of our movement on that spot under the command of the 7th Corps.

I knew that one of the reasons we came to the 7th Corps sector was to liberate al-Faw. I knew this from the kind of training we received, which included purging cities and villages and crossing ramparts. I knew that the target was al-Faw. So, we knew three months before the battle that this training was for a specific purpose. However, we were told about the mission only a week in advance.

One of the problems which faced us was the division's transportation and entry, along with other units under the surveillance of the enemy, at a time when we sought to take the enemy by surprise without the enemy discovering our units and their entry into the region. We took advantage of the heavy dust in the area to sneak our units in by night.

All of our formations managed to sneak into the area, almost reaching rampart A, or line A, as they called it, which is 1,000 meters from the front. There were other ramparts near the Shatt al- 'Arab, containing shelters which were used to hide units. Also other positions were dug to hide the units completely. We also started to set up firing pads on the ramparts by night.

One of the tricks we used was that all the division's formations knew that they were going to replace the 7th Corps units, which would be assigned a mission in the north and was responsible then for penetrating the sector with three brigades toward al-Faw using the strategic route through the Shatt al-'Arab. Most of the officers and fighters knew that a replacement would take place. Infantry units left their positions and were replaced by the mechanized division. This was part of the trick.

Things changed afterward. We told those on leave to go to al-Sulaymaniyah when they do not find their units in their current sector.

Also, another trick was as follows: I was called to the corps headquarters, and they asked me to prepare the maps of Halabjah and to get ready to move to Halabjah. The other problem was that I had to execute the second and third phases, along with the 6th Division. After carrying out the first phase by the 7th Division, which was in control of the al-Basrah-al-Faw old route toward Shatt al-'Arab using two brigade, the 6th Division was to use the al-Basrah-al-Faw strategic route using three formations. The first phase was to occupy the first two ramparts. In the second phase, after the 6th and 7th Divisions carry out their duties in the first phase, the 7th Division will be in charge of the Shatt al-'Arab to carry out the second and third phases, including the one regarding the palm cover. We were supposed to rush from the first canal toward the third canal to carry out the second and third phases by maintaining contact with the Republican Guard.

The dilemma that faced us was how to enable the carriers and tanks to cross the wetlands, which the brothers had seen covered with water through which canals were running. The only available road (the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road) had holes along 150-200 meters. In other words, it was unpaved.

The no-man's-land was planted with mines, barriers, iron obstacles, old palm trunks, and the debris of previous battles in the region.

What we have thought of after the first stage was to pave the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road so as to enable the mechanized and armored brigades to cross. We also thought of another alternative road in case this road is blocked. We saw an old pipeline which passed near the wetland. It was in the form of a tongue and was used by the 7th Division as an ambush. Dump trucks managed to carry the palm trunks and about 20,000 sacks of sand. Our duty at the first stage was to support the tanks which ascended pads to fire at set targets in front of them and at enemy arms emplacements in the other side of the wetland. Our duty was also to organize the engineering effort to complete the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road, to remove mines from it, and to be in charge of the 7th Division along a front of three brigades taking defensive positions. At the first stage, the three brigades were under the command of the 1st Division. When the operation took place, three brigades in defensive positions and three brigades from the division's formations were under our command.

I kept in constant touch with the brigades commanders so as to inquire about developments. I was told that the 6th Division sent a commando brigade and an infantry brigade to the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. At exactly 0900, I, and Staff Major General Mahmud Fayzi al-Hazza' as a substitute commander, went to the old al-Al-Basrah-al-Faw road. We found that the duty was fulfilled completely in preparation for the implementation of the second and third stages. Then, the 7th Division stopped its advancement. The commander of the 7th Army Corps contacted me and told me to take command of the 7th Division and the brigades under its command which have been ordered to attack. I was also ordered to complete the mission because the left wing of the 6th Division became exposed because the 6th Division had advanced ahead of other units.

Mr. Leader President, this presented us with a colossal command problem. For, three brigades in the sector to be penetrated became under my command, not to mention three other brigades affiliated with the division as well as the brigades of the 7th Division and their artillery. I answered the commander of the 7th Army Corps, saying: Yes, Sir.

To this, the 7th Army Corps commander replied: Use the same brigades tasked with conducting the offensive which moved to a location adjacent to the 7th Division. I observed that brigades, including the 7th Army Corps Commando Brigade and the other brigade, were calling for help, but to no avail.

I answered him, saying: Do you allow me to push into this effort one of my brigades, or two brigades, an infantry brigade and a mechanized one? I had previously turned an armor brigade into a full-blown mechanized brigade (consisting of two tank battalions and two infantry regiments). Afterward, the 7th Army Corps commander called and asked me to continue. I told him that I would bypass the gun emplacement located along Shatt al-'Arab. There was a curve, which the Commando Brigade managed to cross, albeit with losses sustained. Eventually, this brigade withdrew. I decided to bypass the gun emplacement, using the 6th Division. If I succeed, I reasoned, I would be able to enter Shatt al-'Arab and bypass the curve. Inevitably, I thought, I would then be behind enemy lines.

From there I moved the 102d Infantry Brigade, which had been placed under my command, and I moved the 34th Armored Brigade to the left side of the 6th Division. Thus, we had two brigades: One in Shatt al-'Arab area and the other near the 6th Division to protect its left flank. I must not forget to say that the old al-Basrah-al-Faw road became crowded with units from the 16th Brigade, the 25th Brigade, and other units which used that road. Mortar fire intensified near Shatt al-'Arab. Side and front firing at our units, the difficult terrain, the ramparts, and the narrowness of the road all led to the units being crowded. At sunset, we reached the first canal, moved the 1st Brigade, and received orders to take up and reinforce positions to achieve the other goals on the following day.

At 0600 in the morning of the following day, we reached al-Ma'amir jetty, where the Air Force managed to block bridges and enabled the Republican Guards to attack

al-Faw. We besieged the Iranian Forces at al-Ma'amir jetty, captured 143 enemy troops, and learned that the enemy began to retreat after most of its gunboats at al-Ma'amir jetty were destroyed. By then, I had a brigade ready to move to an area 1.5 km from the city. They told me not to move the 27th Brigade. The representative of the Army chief of staff—I think it was Staff Major General Walid—told me to stop where I was because the 27th Brigade would cross the rampart at the second canal. He asked me to stop to avoid any clash between our units and because of the Republican Guards' arrival in the city. So, he told us to move toward Shatt al-'Arab and that infantry units would reach us. As a result, the 2d Division arrived and took over the Sharit al-Nakhil sector.

Mr. Leader President, this is a brief report on the role of the mechanized divisions in the al-Faw liberation battle.

[Staff Major General Sa'dallah Khalil, commander of the Nebuchadrezzar Forces of the Republican Guard, during al-Faw's liberation] During the al-Faw liberation battle, I was commander of the General Reserve Forces of the Republican Guard. Armored and mechanized brigades were placed under my command, including the 8th and the 9th Armored Brigades, and I took part in the first chapter as an alternate to the Baghdad Forces commander.

[Saddam] Army circles may hear me. The issue of alternative commanders may be known by the commanders but not by other circles and the people. Is it known by other armies in the world? However, we used that formula in battles of this type for fear of a commander being wounded or martyred, and leaving his units without a commander known for his capabilities. Some may say that from the professional point of view, the chief of staff may carry out that duty. But in light of the Iraqi human aspect, the capable commander carries out more duties than simply emergency duties. When the alternate to an Army corps commander is also a commander of an Army corps, when he is known by other commanders to be an alternate to the wounded Army corps commander and to have participated in the battle, when he knows the details of the battle from the beginning, and then he assumes the command as an alternative, his role will be more effective, according to our human evaluation, than that of the Army corps chief of staff at that time. Now, all the Army corps chiefs of staff are former Army corps commanders.

Their experience is something different from what we talked about under certain circumstances. Under such circumstances, the division commander did not have a chance of becoming the chief of staff of the Army corps, even before becoming the division's chief of staff. During big battles, there were alternate commanders for division commanders and there were alternate commanders for Army corps commanders. Of course, this formula does not need to be followed in all wars at all times, especially when the Army is waging an all-out battle. All Army corps and division commanders waged their battles. Meanwhile, the concept of alternate commanders did not occur to the Armed Forces General Command. However, the nature of the battles we waged against Iran allowed us to wage a major battle from time to time which branched into smaller battles of engagement. Hence, the nature of the war gave us the opportunity to apply the concept of alternate commanders.

[Staff Maj. Gen. Azhar Sa'dallah Khalil] I participated in the second chapter as an alternate commander to the commander of the Hamurabi Forces. I proudly took part with the commander of the Hamurabi Forces in raising the flag of Iraq over the liberated al-Faw. One of the important things I noticed during my participation in the two chapters and during my command of the Baghdad and Hamurabi Forces is that the commanders waged the battle with their units. This is because the number of main roads on which the units moved was limited, especially since engineering works were slow and the roads did not allow for speedy movement of the units' vehicles, particularly rear position units that walked distances reaching 30 km. In recognized military standards, these distances are considered very long and the soldier cannot carry heavy gear and assume an offensive position in battle. Please, Mr. Leader President, allow me to say that when we were young soldiers in 1971, we used to walk for 20 kilometers after which our feet would swell. So, what do you think happened if the distance was 30 km during an offensive?

Mr. Leader President, this was the result of continuous training and the physical fitness of the soldiers at the time.

The other point I would like to make is that my brigades participated with other divisions in liberating al-Faw, particularly with the command of Hamurabi Forces; that is, the original infantry brigades. My division took part in the surprise attack.

When we were in Baghdad, I used to go to al-Basrah to attend briefing conferences that I was told about over the telephone. Most of the time, I used to spend the night in al-'Amarah because my military car was old and the formation to which I belonged was newly established. The next day, I would go to al-Basrah relaxed because I had some sleep. On the way there, I would talk with my companion about training and sometimes I would say I was tired of the many conferences dealing with training for the sake of secrecy and deception.

Sir, when the division moved toward al-'Amarah, it did not know the nature of its duty in al-Basrah. We were told that there was a battle in al-'Amarah sector and that our unit has been chosen to work there. This is because I previously worked as a commander of the 29th Division before I was transferred to the Republican Guard. I was assigned by the General Command to launch an offensive in the 4th Army Corps sector. And during our presence in al-'Amarah for several days, I sent the

soldiers out on a reconnaissance mission in the 4th Army Corps sector. This was part of the maneuvering and deception operations.

I recall this anecdote: On the eve of the offensive, we informed the commanders of the brigades and units that we would launch an offensive on the 4th Army Corps sector on the following day. I had already met with these commanders on the preceding day. I also met with the soldiers of the brigades and encouraged them, and informed all the commanders.

Two days earlier, the Ba'th Party's civil branch in al-'Amarah invited me to a dinner marking the transfer of some comrades and the arrival of new comrades. I responded to the invitation in an ordinary way, so matters would appear normal. This is so because I could not tell civilians that we would wage a battle on the following day. I attended the dinner and entrusted the division's chief of staff to send someone to inform me of anything that might happen. During the dinner, a comrade asked me about the tanks' movement. I told him that the tanks were coming from Halabjah, where some brigades had sustained damage. These brigades were heading south and were replaced by fresh brigades to participate in the Halabjah battle. I spent approximately two hours and returned to the division in an ordinary way. No one knew the nature of that mission. Long after the al-Faw liberation battle, the comrades began to laugh and told me that I was hiding something and that I responded to their invitation at a time when they did not know what was taking place. This was an anecdote.

When we arrived at the battlefield, an incident happened with a traffic policeman who was on duty in al-Basrah. He stopped our vehicles at a crossroad. My Land Cruiser stopped near the policeman. I told him: Why have you stopped the military vehicles? Let them go ahead because they have been ordered to liberate al-Faw, I added. The policeman was surprised and amazed as if he did not believe what he heard, which was not expected by anyone, particularly the civilians and soldiers, who imagined that the liberation of al-Faw was like a miracle. This miracle was actually realized when al-Faw was liberated, God be praised. Thank you very much, Sir!

[Staff Major General Wa'dallah Mustafa Hannush, commander of the Special Forces in the al-Faw battle]:

Mr. President Leader, may God protect you: A presidential decree setting up the Special Forces Command, Republican Guard, and appointing me as commander was issued on 19 March 1988. Before that date, I was commander of the 11th Shock Troops Brigade, affiliated with the Republican Guard, the al-Madinah al-Munawwarah Forces Command. When I assumed my new post, the Republican Guard Forces commander recalled me to give me instructions, then he asked me to move to al-Sulaymaniyah. I prepared the 24th and 25th Brigades, which were present in the al-Habbaniyah area. I moved to al-Sulaymaniyah area in the hope to set up a command headquarters there. I had a hunch that something would happen here in al-Faw area, but out of military ethics and shyness I did not request explanations from the commander, who visited me either on 14 or 15 April, one or two days before the battle. He did not spend more than half an hour with me and then returned. I told him that it was raining. He, however, was sent a helicopter, but I requested him to stay due to the ban on flights. He insisted on returning, so I realized the matter.

We were conducting reconnaissance operations. The commanders of the 24th and 25th Brigades were carrying out operations in a sound manner in the direction of Sayyid Sadiq and Banjwin. On 16 April, I was recalled while in Sayyid Sadiq, and ordered to head for the Republican Guard Forces Command in al-Basrah. When I arrived there, Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim Isma'il, the command's chief of staff, instructed me to head for the al-Madinah al-Munawwarah Forces Command to act as a commander affiliated with its commander. In fact, I benefited much from him because he was my former commander and has special experience.

There is another point: I requested the commander to allow me to talk about the battle. During the battle, the right flank of the 16th Brigade was late. I told the commander that we attacked the enemy with the 6th Brigade, which had already achieved its objectives, in order to gain time. When the commander saw that the enemy lost its balance and collapsed, he pushed ahead the 11th Brigade in addition to the Special Forces' special regiment to achieve the objectives of the second chapter at the same time. Thank you, Sir.

[Saddam] Let us discuss some problems. Nawfal Isma'il Khudayyir discussed matters, and you noticed that, in an emotional way. Thamir also spoke about his division's role and the problems which faced him. However, we want to hear comments from the Army chief of staff at the time, the deputy chief of operations, and the director of intelligence, because he had his own intelligence at that time. This is because we want to know matters as they really were, and the events as described by the commanders at the time.

[Staff Gen. Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji] When we set our plans, it was clear to us that advance in the 7th Army Corps sector would be better. We reached this conclusion due to the tough terrain in the sector, and because the division's units did not have full time to train and prepare like the Republican Guard units. The Republican Guards' sector was wider and more open. As for the 7th Army Corps, when it advanced, it would be affected more from the left flank across Shatt al-'Arab and from the palm area adjacent to Shatt al-'Arab. This is because enemy mortars on the other bank would obstruct the advance of infantry units from the 7th Army Corps' direction by firing from the gun emplacements from the safer side; namely, the east bank. This is in addition to the existence of the palm area and the other enemy machine-gun emplacements and other means of

resistance. This is why we had in mind that the advance of the 7th Army Corps would be relatively slower than that of the Republican Guard. Despite this, in our plan, we gave al-Faw to the 7th Corps, and we said that al-Faw might also be the Republican Guards' target.

[Saddam] This was my idea at the time. I said that we must have alternatives regarding al-Faw. I am not revealing a secret if I say that my first choice was the 7th Army Corps because of the two points you have mentioned. From a psychological point of view, I did not want to say that the Republican Guards' duty was to advance toward al-Faw in case the 7th Army Corps failed to do so. So, I said that in case the Republican Guards failed, the 7th Corps would liberate al-Faw, and in case the 7th Corps failed to do so, the Republican Guards would be entrusted with the task of liberation.

[Al-Khazraji] This was clear to the two corps' commands.

Mr. Leader President, during the execution of the plan, the first news we received about the two sectors was good. I believe that the 7th Corps made some progress in the early hours, as Staff Maj. Gen. Nawfal Isma'il Khudayr said. However, we felt that the advance of the 7th Corps was somewhat slow. So, we visited the 6th Division's mobile headquarters. The situation, about which Staff Maj. Gen. Nawfal Isma'il Khudayr spoke, particularly concerning the infantry brigade, was stumbling. The commander of the stumbling formation, who actually did not give figures, was speaking with a staff officer in the 6th Division's headquarters, and told him something which should not be said under offensive conditions. I can recall that when the aforementioned staff officer received news that the brigade was finished, providing that this is a wrong term that should not be used in the Army, he used to repeat this in an approving and confirming tone. How this could have been while you are attacking and when the Republican Guards were achieving great success? The 6th Division's armored formation was also proceeding well, and what was left was a limited area. This could not happen, especially since the brigade was engaged in fighting. He [the commander] asked him: How was the brigade finished? He [the officer] answered: The brigade is finished. Staff Maj. Gen. Nawfal Isma'il Khudayr asked about the other brigade, and the answer was that it was also finished. So, I felt...

[Staff Lieutenant General Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, interrupting] I have some information about this officer, who had the rank of a staff lieutenant colonel. He now works with the renegades who call themselves the opposition.

[Saddam] See. He is now with the traitors, not the opposition. See how each person goes back to his origins. See how long has he been planted. He has been planted since he said that the brigade is finished. He did not want to let his masters down. Otherwise, how can he say that this brigade was finished, and also the other brigade which was close to it? Afterwards, when he saw the men liberating al-Faw, he went away and joined the traitors. It seems that he has been a traitor since then, and this was the clear result.

[Al-Duri] In fact, Staff Gen. Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji and Staff Gen. Husayn Rashid have said that this officer belonged to the al-Da'wah Party, and that was apparent from the way he used to talk on the radio.

[Saddam] This is the instinct of the believers.

[Al-Duri] I recall that the one who took the radio from that officer and dismissed him was either Staff Gen. Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji or Staff Gen. Husayn Rashid. That officer now works with 'Adnan Muhammad Nuri as the Army chief of staff or the defense minister.

[Saddam] We thank and praise God. We were once having a conversation and one of the men said we might have cared if any one of them was worth anything. I said: You must thank God. Do you want the good ones to be with them. Thank God, because such an officer and his ilk are the ones who fall in the arms of the United States, Zionism, and foreign countries. The good ones do not do that, because they know that their families and uncles are good people.

[Al-Khazraji] I did not know that officer, but I suspected him when he was asked about the second brigade and said that it was also finished. We were really upset, because we were putting every possible effort into that offensive and all of a sudden two brigades are finished in five minutes. How did this happen, especially since we were on the attack against the enemy and the armored formations of the 6th Brigade were fulfilling their tasks in very good and acceptable fashion, despite the poor road conditions. We were really upset.

[Saddam, jokingly] The traitors have made that officer their Army chief of staff, right?

[Al-Khazraji] I believe that Staff Gen. Husayn Rashid took the officer out of the room.

[Gen. Husayn Rashid] I beat him severely.

[Saddam] Imagine that Gen. Husayn Rashid was angered to this level, although he always controls his nerves!

[Al-Khazraji] I spoke with the division commander and told him that our situation and that of the right flank were good, and that the armored formation was advancing in good fashion.

Therefore, I did not accept such talk because we were attacking and the enemy was in a bad situation. These two brigades might have been affected. So, we told the units to contact them and send them staff officers.

We were not satisfied. We returned to the Republican Guard forces and went to the Army Corps Headquarters in the evening. We found the Army corps commander

upset by the situation, but I reassured him and told him that the Army corps was carrying out its duty well and even better than we had expected. This is true because the sector of that Army corps was more difficult than that of the 7th Army Corps.

A commander usually wants to have a more spacious area before him in order to enjoy more freedom of movement, and he also wants to secure his flank. The Army corps commander was annoyed by the 7th Division's headquarters. At that time, we had assessed that we would need the 2d Division, which was operating within the 7th Army Corps. Therefore, we brought the commander of the 2d Division to the 7th Army Corps by plane, despite the ban on flights, and asked him to reinforce the success which was achieved, as the 7th Army Corps commander had the idea of moving the 5th Army Corps beyond the 7th Army Corps. But we told him that he had achieved an acceptable level of success on the strategic highway and that he had to benefit from the success achieved by the 6th Division's armored units. This was carried out, and the 1st Division carried out its duties in an acceptable manner, achieved the first chapter before dawn, developed its work, crossed the next target area, pushed forward, seized the bridgehead, and wanted to push toward al-Faw, but we told them not to do that because the Republican Guard forces were operating in al-Faw and that we did not want any clashes between the units.

They said that there were enemy remnants, such as snipers and deserters. Our response to them was as follows: You only have to purge the area you have reached, the area extending to Shatt al-'Arab. The Republican Guard troops have achieved their objectives in this sector and exploited the successes they scored there.

As a matter of fact, we expected the Republican Guards to score relatively greater successes than those scored by the 7th Army Corps, for reasons I have already mentioned. Thank you, Sir.

[Saddam] Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Rashid: Do you have any comment on this?

[Rashid] Yes, Sir. In addition to the remarks made by the then Army chief of staff, I would like to say that we visited the 6th Division and found it in good shape. It is true that the successes it scored failed to match the successes scored by the Republican Guard troops. However, each area has its own peculiar characteristics.

The situation looked difficult for the 6th and 1st Divisions because of the difficulties faced by the 7th Division. When a certain division gets stuck in a certain location, the other divisions arriving at this location are bound face numerous difficulties, because it will take them a long time to assume command and take over leadership properly.

As for the other point, which further exacerbated the situation of the 6th and 1st Divisions, it lay in the route of the 7th Division. This route went through palm trees, marshlands, and Shatt al-'Arab. Besides, the 7th Division was coming close to becoming within range of Iranian fire. This route held the key for the advance of the 7th Army Corps. Otherwise, the advance of the 7th Army Corps could have proceeded well along the strategic line and the road running parallel to it. However, lateral fire coming from the line of palm trees continued to obstruct its advance.

Hence, the difficulties into which the 7th Division ran was the key hindrance. Had a brigade affiliated with the 7th Division managed to advance and secure its line of advance as well as the flank, things would have gone well. However, problems persisted. Consequently, the 6th Division continued to come under lateral fire. The direction of the 1st Division was the same direction of the 7th Division. This complicated matters, particularly since the two divisions used the same line of advance used by the 6th Division. This caused troops to crowd the line of advance. Consequently, these troops continued to come under lateral fire from the left side.

This delayed the arrival of troops. Compared with other troops, it took these divisions a longer time to reach their target areas, Thank you, Sir.

[Saddam] If escorts have any comment on this, they are most welcome to voice it. We have not asked them for their opinions, because they were busy then, providing security for the leadership.

The lessons drawn from combat over an eight-year period in the 2d al-Qadisiyah battle are all eloquent and great. The most important lesson learned is that the homeland, as well as principles, showed themselves to be in possession of a long column of men who were all willing to sacrifice their lives to uphold principles and safeguard the homeland.

God have mercy on our martyrs and grant them paradise. Glory to them. We also extend our greetings on our own behalf and on behalf of the homeland and the people to all of our wounded, who sacrificed their lives but God spared their lives. Glory to every fighter, to every honorable knight who believed in these principles as he was fighting the enemies.

The meaning behind al-Faw's liberation lies in the fact that it was achieved in the manner you described, despite the fact that the fighting continued for eight years. The al-Faw victory was the gate to great victory. Victory was achieved on 8 August 1988. It was achieved on 4 September 1980, in the first confrontation with the enemy. It was also achieved on 22 September 1980, in the first large-scale retaliation by the Armed Forces against the enemy's encroachments and aggression. It was achieved in every battle which the fighters fought while armed with the great principles and with the honor of the homeland and patriotism. It was also achieved on the gate to victory in al-Faw.

All great success in the battles of liberation were the direct result of the al-Faw battle. The lesson in the use of

armored units in this battle was a rich one, because the mass of armor used in it was larger than before. It also provided a lesson in operating in shallow waters, because in other battles, water was deeper and the terrain was different. Therefore, the al-Faw battle was the crown of all battles of liberation.

The most important lesson we draw from all this is that the homeland, which has faithful men, would not be lost, despite the emergence of people like that little traitor, who committed betrayal when he deprived his fighters of the honor of taking part in the liberation; an honor which they could have won with a higher degree if they were commanded by another person. That traitor was only one person, but there were many honorable and stalwart men who had the honor to sacrifice and fight, and win glory, in the al-Faw battle.

The homeland that has men who are believers and are willing to sacrifice cannot be lost. If a part of it is lost or occupied, then that will be only for a while. But what is important is that one should not be occupied from within. When land is occupied but the people remain free and leaning toward the supreme values, then no part of the homeland can stay occupied forever. But when people's souls are occupied—that is to say when people feel despair and forget the role, the values, and the duty—then the homeland would be occupied, although there may not be any foreign occupation troops. You know that there are many states in the world which are occupied although there are no military units occupying their territory. You also know that some Arab rulers are subject to occupation although some of them talk too much and talk as if they are patriots. Why is such a ruler subject to occupation? Because he is captive from within and sabotaged from within, and because he lost his will to the foreigner and allowed the foreign to dictate his orders to him.

I beseech God to protect you and the knights of the Armed Forces and their men; may God protect you, great Iraq, and its great banner, and may God have mercy on our righteous martyrs.

To clarify an aspect of history—though I talked about it on several occasions—I would like to explain several matters to avoid unjust judgment by certain historians.

Some people may say: Saddam Husayn used the dearest reserve of the General Command, and may ask: What would happen if the battle failed? A question of this kind applies to everything. We can ask any successful person: What would happen if you failed? We can pose such a question to anyone, but we also can ask anyone: What would happen if we did not do this?

We used the dearest reserve of the General Command—the Republican Guard. It was impossible for us to return without victory. We went ahead and offered all that we had. I used to attend some battles, and late 'Adnan Khayrallah used to attend some others. This time, we all marched forward, determined to liberate al-Faw. We were prepared to offer martyrs and return al-Faw to its people. The purpose was not only to regain al-Faw but to enter into the last stages of the war.

We dealt with al-Faw as if it had been in our hands. We made calculations in a rational manner, and after completing these calculations, we relied on Almighty God.

Therefore, the move did not imply any adventure. Rather, it implied faith, a comprehensive and accurate assessment of the course of the conflict and a review of all the enemy's habits and his behavior in previous battles. We were also aware that the enemy believed we would not attack at a time when we were waging a large battle. Indeed such a thing had not happened. We had not waged a large battle with the enemy and, at the same time, launched a large-scale attack against another sector like the one that occurred in al-Faw. Two large battles took place at the same time. The enemy launched the first and we launched the second. We wanted and were determined to end the war, but could not.

The enemy reached the point where he would be confused if he was exposed to a major blow. The technical preparations which you explained were not easy. It was not an adventure. It was a risk taken by the commander, whether he is a division commander, Army corps commander, or the country's leader. If the commander does not take risks, he is called a commander in name, as we have previously said. There is a difference between a commander in name and the one in deed. If the commander does not take any step before obtaining guarantees of success signed by someone, he cannot be a commander. This does not apply to war alone, but also to peace.

I'll relate to you another example of camouflage: The late Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah wanted to go there together with some brothers, but I asked him not to. I told him that he and I will leave Baghdad only at a designated hour, and then I set the hour at which he was to come to me. I was waiting for him at Dar al-Nasr about which people know from previous, successful battles, and for whom its doorstep came to augur good luck. People said that this time things may turn out just as lucky at the Mother of Battles. I told them that things were now different, and that certain things at times bring good fortune; but more important than anything else is God, the merciful, the compasionate.

We left there and came to you by air; there were Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan and 'Udayy and Qusayy with us. We took more than one aircraft lest we be conspicuous. A while later, however, we were found out. We called from the 3d Corps headquarters where we had landed in al-Nashwah. We were anxious to receive quick word, and the news was that the men were doing fine, thanks be to God.

Our next step was to proceed to the roving headquarters by plane. Brig. Gen. Safa' was at the controls and he flew over the marsh. I do not know how a skilled pilot like him did that. Maybe he discovered that he penetrated deeper than he should, or maybe, having recognized fighters and ongoing combat on the ground, he realized

his mistake of going beyond the roving headquarters. Thereupon we turned back to the roving headquarters, thanks be to God.

What good are symbols if the homeland is compromised? You should thank God, in all cases.

The Iraqis take much pride in the individual aspect of dignity, and associate dignity with many other noble values that we must elevate. But any person who may resent not having been honored with a medal will do well to thank God that al-Faw was regained, that the battles for liberation were a success, that his banner has remained high, and the reputation and name of his army and people unblemished.

You are aware that at one point or another, certain Arab armies were held in so low a regard that officers shunned using public transport so as to be spared insults hurled at them. This is so because an Arab takes great pride in his land. It was when the land was lost and fighters failed to acquit themselves in battle that they were publicly ridiculed. Not that they were reluctant to fight, but there were specific circumstances that I do not want to go into right now.

Our success in al-Faw has triggered the 33-nation aggression against Iraq, but it has evoked the memory of al-Qadisiyah battle. The battle for the liberation of al-Faw has carried you to new heights, thanks be to God.

I wish you and your Arab nation a happy return, God willing, God willing, God willing.

I wish your country—the base of faith and jihad in the nation—a happy return.

I wish the valiant, mujahid armed forces a happy return, God willing.

May you and your families enjoy God's protection.

Saddam's Brother Asks People To Be 'Optimistic,' 'Patient'

JN2804143893 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 93 p 2

["Viewpoint" column by Barzan al-Tikriti]

[Text] Do not become pessimistic when you a hear a door slammed shut, thinking that it is a bomb exploding. Do not despair whenever your chair shakes, thinking that the earth is shaking under the force of U.S.-Atlantic bombs. Do not think it is the end of the world if you hear thunder.

The end does not come suddenly. It is preceded by omens, indications, and warnings. You must know that empires do not die of heart failure. Be optimistic about today and tomorrow, and rest assured that all your problems must end with God's will and with your own efforts; that all you have to do is be patient and steadfast, work and wait for a way out.

Those who view everything with apprehension and who see the night but not the day, thinking that the darkness is eternal and that there is no future for them, are the pessimists who hate life and make life hate them.

We must love life so that life might love us; expect good so that it might come to us. We must know that when darkness comes, the day can never be far behind. You must know that the doors of heaven will one day open for you and this day is not too far off. It is obvious that the plotters never remember God or make room for his might in their plans. They have forgotten his abilities. God gives them time, but he will never ignore them. See how the world order collapsed and important companies went bankrupt in countries that led or participated in aggression against you? See how unemployment in the West increased and how people became frustrated as a result? We can see how nature became angry with them and poured its wrath on them by afflicting many areas with earthquakes and floods; how many U.S. states were covered by water?

The wrath of God is still destroying the unjust and the opportunists, the latest being Turgut Ozal. Bush was defeated before that and Thatcher was expelled by her own party, pursued by curses. We have seen how the French Socialist Party was defeated in recent elections. Surely, God's wrath will continue until injustice is removed and the unjust have been punished.

How many times has the world gone dark and you thought it was the end, only to see the light again and discover that it was the beginning and not the end of the world? I do not fear the future, but love, look forward to, and feel optimistic about it. I know that the future will solve our problems, be they economic or political, because these problems do not grow with time but shrivel and disappear. Still, we must know that all this depends on our efforts and our proper understanding of our problems in all areas of life. We must understand that if we yield to pessimism, remain stagnant, and reduce our output, our problems will become bigger and harder to solve.

The important thing is to remain steadfast, work, and not give up. We must face our problems, not run away from them. We must face them firmly and squarely, with good thinking and management. We should not imagine that problems exist only with us. There are problems in most countries of the world, but they take different forms. There are thefts and bombings in most countries around the world. In Switzerland there are car thefts,

house burglaries, and bank robberies. There are terrorists who believe in terrorism only for its own sake and not to fight for just causes. There is unemployment in the richest countries, but these problems shrink and die because of hard work, good ideas, and prudent management, and because of the determination to fight and eradicate problems.

You want change in methods and tools. This change is inevitable, but do not think that angels will replace devils. You might end up regretting the departure of the outgoing rather than being happy with the newcomers.

Our problems do not lie in the need for substituting one person with another. Our problems lie in management, our high sense of responsibility, efficiency, expertise, and experience; that is, putting the right man in the right place.

Be optimistic over the fact that tomorrow cannot be worse than today.

[Signed] Barzan al-Tikriti, Geneva, mid-April 1993.

Rabin Cancels Deportation for 30 Veteran Deportees

TA2804192293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has decided to cancel the deportation orders against 30 veteran deportees after it transpired that they had not been involved in hostile terrorist activity during the time they were abroad. These men were deported between 1967 and the outbreak of the intifadah.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks were notified of the defense minister's decision. The defense minister's media adviser clarified that Israel had not promised to approve the return of additional deportees.

Denies Commitment for More Steps

TA2904111393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, was accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, on a tour of southern Israel today. Speaking at a news conference at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base, Prime Minister Rabin said that the 30 old-time deportees returning to Israel are mostly elderly men, repeatedly emphasizing that their hands are not covered with blood. The return of these deportees was designed to make it easier for the Palestinians to adopt more flexible positions at the political negotiations in Washington.

[Begin Rabin recording] As for the current decision regarding the old-time deportees, I made no commitment to take additional steps; however, considering that up till now approximately 30 appeals from deportees have been submitted to the review committees—even prior to the current decision—I do not rule out the possibility of a legal procedure in which a committee reviews an appeal and makes a recommendation to the IDF commander, who will have the final say. [end recording]

Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that in his opinion, the recent concessions to the Palestinians will not incite more violence in the territories.

The prime minister was also asked about the general closure on the territories which began already one month ago in the Gaza Strip. Rabin said that in the future, Palestinians from the territories will no longer be permitted free movement across the Green Line. The prime minister asserted that the situation will not revert to its previous state.

Move Seen as Low-Cost 'Gesture'

TA2904123593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 93 p 2

[Commentary by Roni Shaqed: "A Disappointing List"]

[Text] The return of the 30 deportees was welcome in the territories because of the precedent Israel has introduced, but the list of the returnees is disappointing. It does not include a single known Fatah activist; most of them were members of the Communist Party, which has since dissolved.

In paying a relatively low price, Israel has managed to make a gesture to the Palestinians while scoring public relations points. Of the deportees, 27 are over the age of 55; some of them are not widely known and, after five years of intifadah, their activities are no longer remembered. Israel rejected a list the Palestinians presented, through which they had hoped to revive the Fatah power in the territories.

Of the 50 names the Palestinians presented to Israel, only a few are allowed to return. Israel rejected outright the return of central activists—such as Akram Haniyah, 'Arafat's aide, or Marwan al-Barghuti, a senior Fatah activist—although the PLO very firmly demanded that they be returned, through the Americans.

One thing is clear: The returnees will neither constitute a security threat nor will they become the heroes of the Palestinian street, despite the fact that some of them were, and some still are, members of the Palestine National Council.

Their return to the territories is perhaps the beginning of a process which will allow additional deportees to return, as the Americans had promised, and the Palestinians view this as an achievement. The Palestinians also consider the return of deportees from East Jerusalem an achievement.

Peres—No Change in Territories' Status Under Autonomy

TA2804182893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today [at the Knesset plenum] there will be no changes in land ownership, and the status of the territories will not be altered during the period of the autonomy. The Likud and right-wing opposition parties accused the government of jeopardizing Israel's interests by making concessions before real negotiations have even started. The discussion was moved to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, as Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] [passage omitted] Likud party chairman Binyamin Netanyahu condemned Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for saying in a radio interview that Israel's job is to give while the Palestinians' job is to take.

[Netanyahu] Well, if they begin the negotiations this way, offering just about everything, we know that very rapidly we will reach a point where Israel (?retreats) to the 1967 boundaries. We'll have a Palestinian-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]-'Arafat state at the outskirts of Tel Aviv, and we'll have the Syrian Army peering down at us from the Golan. This is not a prescription for peace.

[Katzenell] There is nothing wrong with confidence-building measures, Netanyahu said, provided it is not only Israel that is offering them. The Palestinians, for example, can create confidence among Israelis by stopping their terrorism, Netanyahu said, and the Syrians could stop the killing in south Lebanon by the Hizballah organization, which they control. [passage omitted]

Replying to the opposition motions, Shim'on Peres recalled that it was the Likud government of Menahem Begin which committed Israel to the autonomy (?frame) for the Palestinians in the Camp David agreements. You cannot oppose it now, he said.

Peres pointed to the dramatic drop in terrorist activity since the closure of the territories. He promised that there would be no change in the status of the territories during the autonomy, nor in the ownership of land. Israel was not giving the Palestinians a map, he said, only a timetable for the beginning of negotiations on a permanent settlement three years after the establishment of the autonomy. [end recording]

Peres Says Peace Mainly 'Our Decision'

TA2904113793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that the ability to achieve peace depends mainly on Israel. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Peres made this statement during a ceremony marking the appointment of Uri Savir as the new Foreign Ministry director general, replacing outgoing Director General Yosef Hadas:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Today Foreign Minister Peres made another statement that could anger those who are critical of the political negotiations. Speaking at the Foreign Ministry ceremony marking the change of directors general, Mr. Peres said that peace depends mainly on Israel. Later I asked Mr. Peres to explain what he meant by this statement:

[Peres] Nobody can or will dictate to us what to do; consequently, it is mainly our decision.

[Raz] What should we do with the territories and with our neighbors?

[Peres] We are not dealing with territories but rather with populations. We are not negotiating over uninhabited territories, over tracts of land, but about populations. Basically, we must rid ourselves of the attempt at or rather the habit of ruling over others and direct all our energy inward, toward our country, our state, and our population.

[Raz] You are emphasizing the so-called demographic problem. How can we deal with this problem, beyond implementing the series of facilitating measures and gestures mentioned almost daily?

[Peres] When the Palestinians manage their own affairs, the demographic problem will also be theirs: What to do with the population? How to deal with the population increase? Obviously, it is in our interest for our neighbors to be able to conduct normal economic life. We are not interested in a disaster befalling our neighbors, but rather in a historical division between the two nations, where each people will manage its own affairs according to its desires and ability.

[Raz] Are you satisfied with the reactions of the Palestinian delegation to the latest gestures?

[Peres] I would have liked their reaction to be more far-reaching, but it is okay.

[Raz] Are you not concerned about the public reaction in Israel to the gestures, including the return of deportees and facilitating family reunification?

[Peres] Not only am I not concerned, I am certain that the public reaction will be positive. Look, yesterday the right wing tried to organize a demonstration, but I did not notice the masses turning out for it. Yesterday's demonstration was supposed to be a show of force against what they call our concessions. In fact, it was a demonstration of weakness, because you cannot force the public to demonstrate against what it considers to be correct moves.

[Raz] Does not the fact that Israel is willing to permit approximately 5,000 Palestinians to remain beyond the period stated in their permits within the framework of family reunifications express an acquiescence to their demand for implementing the right of return?

[Peres] Absolutely not. Over the years, more than 100,000 such permits have been issued by all our governments, both Labor and Likud governments, and nobody considered this a precedent. By no means does this constitute a precedent regarding the right of return. [end recording]

Rabinovich, Others Discuss Peace Talks

TA2804203493

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1840 GMT on 28 April, on the weekly "Moqed" interview program, carries a live studio discussion from Jerusalem among moderator Yoram Ronen, Health Minister Hayim Ramon, Likud Knesset Member Dan Meridor, and Zalman Shoval, Israel's former ambassador to the United States. Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's current ambassador to the United

States, who is also the head of Israel's delegation to the talks with the Syrians, and Washington correspondent Ya'ir Stern also participate in the debate via a satellite link up from Washington.

Ronen begins the debate by asking Ambassador Rabinovich whether Israel's agreement to permit the return of 30 veteran Palestinian deportees constituted "the first payment Israel was making to the Palestinians in return for their agreement to resume the talks." Rabinovich says he would not use terms like "payment or agreement." The ambassador explains that "the Palestinians wanted to return to the talks but found taking such a step difficult," since they have a problem with "leadership," and that the steps carried out by Israel had "helped" the Palestinians to attend the talks. When asked by Ronen whether the Palestinians had not proven by postponing the talks for one week that "nothing would happen without them," and that "separate negotiations or agreements, whether with Syria, Jordan, or Lebanon, could now be ruled out," Rabinovich asserts that Israel was not seeking separate agreements. He clarifies, however, that Israel has told the Syrians that it "sought a viable agreement that will stand on its own two feet," and asserts that the "inability of the Arab delegations to arrive without the Palestinians only strengthened this demand."

Shoval argues that while he is partial to the United States' playing the role of a honest broker, he is opposed to Washington becoming a full partner in the talks, as this could lead to demands for further Israeli concessions. Shoval then enumerates the concessions made by the Rabin government, complaining that the other side has not shown any reciprocity.

Meridor launches into a scathing attack on the Labor government, saying that the way it is handling the negotiations smacks of incompetence and ineptitude. He claims that the government is not negotiating but only making endless concessions. He warns that the government's "sense of haste" will either lead to "disastrous concessions" or to the negotiations failure.

Stern then asks Ambassador Rabinovich how the talks with the Syrians ended today. Rabinovich recounts that yesterday the Syrians presented "a formula of full peace in exchange for full withdrawal," noting that while the Israeli delegation liked the term full peace, it did not accept "the attempt to squeeze such a complex reality into a formula." Today, the Israeli delegation again asked the Syrian delegates to clarify what they meant by full peace, but the Syrians said they would only clarify their remarks after they received an Israeli "commitment for full withdrawal." This, Rabinovich said, led to "a temporary communication breakdown" after which the Syrian "attempt to encapsulate the complex Israeli-Syrian reality into this formula was removed from the agenda by mutual consent," and it was agreed that the Israeli and Syrian delegations would "resume work tomorrow on the joint declaration of principles."

When Stern notes that Syrian chief negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf had said today that he would consider asking for U.S. intervention if there was no progress in the talks, Rabinovich asserts that he "is not worried by that request." The ambassador says that "there is great understanding in the United States for our position, at least with regard to the Syrian track." Rabinovich says that al-'Allaf is welcome to "try and recruit American support for their position."

Stern expresses puzzlement over the fact that the announcement on the return of 30 veteran deportees was made in Washington by Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi and not by an Israeli Government spokesman. Rabinovich explains that Israel's aim was to get the "Palestinian public, as well as the world, used to the fact that the Palestinian delegation was an authoritative body." Therefore, it is also good for Israel when the "delegation serves as the source for reports of progress in the negotiations."

When asked by the moderator whether statements made by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid that no agreement with Syria would be possible without Israel first renouncing sovereignty over the Golan Heights represent the government's position, Health Minister Ramon prefers to respond to the allegations leveled previously by former Ambassador Shoval and MK Meridor. Ramon accuses the government's detractors of trying to pull the wool over the public's eyes, because everyone knows that while the previous Likud government intended to drag the negotiations on forever, the present government really seeks to make progress and relinquish any pretensions to rule over the Palestinians. Ramon claims that the Likud never negotiated with the Syrians "but was content with Yosi Ben-Aharon's sermonizing about the Syrian educational system." Ramon states that the present government recognizes that Security Council Resolution 242 applies to the Golan Heights, or, in other words, accepts the fact of an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights; however, he explains: "The extent of the withdrawal and its dimensions depend primarily on two major issues: First, the scope of peace and its meaning. Second, security arrangements. Until Israel receives full and satisfactory clarifications on these issues, we will not discuss the dimensions of withdrawal on the Golan." Ramon notes that in its negotiations with Syria, Israel will have a hard time avoiding the Camp David precedent of territorial withdrawal that the Likud agreed to with Egypt.

Meridor counters by arguing that when Labor assumed management of the present negotiations process, the conditions were vastly in Israel's favor, an advantage which they rapidly proceeded to squander. Meridor claims that any comparison between the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights is pure deception, and that during the 1992 elections Rabin had vowed never to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Ronen then asks Rabinovich whether he had received the impression that when the Syrians spoke of "full

withdrawal" they were also referring to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Rabinovich says that the Syrians are trying to maintain a measure of "ambiguity" between their demands for full withdrawal and the focus of their demands on the Golan Heights. Rabinovich states that the Syrians "have led us to understand that they are currently focusing their efforts on the Golan Heights," noting that this was the most specific the Syrians were prepared to be on this point.

Pressed by Ronen as to whether he believes that the Syrians will not sign an agreement that does not also include an Israeli "commitment to withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip," Rabinovich says he has not made that one of his "working assumptions." The ambassador assumes that "if the Syrians are satisfied with regard to their own demands, they will be far more liberal in their general view of the conflict; however, we are not prepared to meet their demands on the Golan Heights, so any argument regarding other territories would be extremely theoretical."

Stern asks Rabinovich whether the Syrians are not making a peace agreement with Israel conditional on its also reaching an agreement with the Palestinians, or what is known in English as "comprehensive peace." Rabinovich, while asserting that the Syrians have not used the term conditional, also notes that Israel too seeks a comprehensive peace, as stipulated by the Madrid format, but rejects making any one agreement conditional on others. Rabinovich goes on to assert that another thing Israel hopes to see in the process was "public diplomacy, and public actions by the Syrian Government that could help convince the Israeli and Syrian publics that there has been a real political turnabout."

Shoval says that Syria could have built up some trust among the Israeli public by halting its encouragement of Hizballah's hostile activity. Shoval asserts that "the Syrians have not changed their positions one bit since the Madrid conference." Nor have they at any stage, Shoval says, "signalled that they would be ready to reach peace for anything less than a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights." Therefore, the former ambassador states, when Rabin claims that "we are not talking about a total withdrawal, there is a good deal of deception here."

Rabinovich supports Shoval's earlier contention about Syria's backing of Hizballah and says that Israel has "asked for some kind of message or proof of behavior that Syria has firmly placed both feet on the path of peace." Rabinovich then goes on to enumerate positive developments in the Syrian position, starting with their employment of the term "peace agreement," and going on to note that the Syrians were now talking about "full peace." Rabinovich says: "The third, most important point remains, and that is the Syrian demand for full withdrawal, which we do not accept. We first want to hear concrete clarifications regarding the peace, and whether it will stand on its own two feet. We want to witness public behavior indicating a shift toward peace."

Ronen asks Rabinovich how long he believes it will take before it could be assessed whether the present round of talks was a success or a failure. Rabinovich says he "does want to be dragged into the sense of haste the Syrians have tried to create, a feeling that if this round of talks fails we will be immediately plunged into war." The ambassador says that Israel is "serious" about making "rapid progress" but does not wish to be dragged into an atmosphere of imminent threats of war.

Shoval sums up his remarks by saying that Israel should not only give, but must also get something in return. He warns against the Syrian attempt to wage "psychological warfare" against the Israeli public by portraying the situation as one hovering on the brink of war.

Meridor expresses concern that the government's "sense of haste" and "necessity" may "roll Israel back to the 1967 borders" because no one knows how to say "no" in the present government.

Minister Ramon concludes by saying that achieving peace is "crucial" for Israel's future. Ramon says the Likud wished to preserve the "status quo, in which Israel controlled 2 million Palestinians." Ramon says that the present government wishes to "disconnect itself" from the Palestinians and was therefore "at haste" to change the status quo for the benefit of Israel. Ramon fears that if no progress is made in the negotiations, Israel will either be forced to control the Palestinians for "an unlimited period or there will be war."

Police Minister on Creation of Palestinian Force

TA2804194693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Studio interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Good evening, sir.

[Shahal] Good evening.

[Sukenik] There has been a lot of talk on the issue, so let us get right down to business. When will a Palestinian police force start operating in the territories?

[Shahal] As soon as preparations are completed and all the problems resolved. We have been discussing this issue since the establishment of the government in a joint forum comprising all the security arms—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Shin Bet, the Israel Police, the Police Ministry, and representatives of judicial institutions. The model we pursue will grant the local police limited authority to deal only with Palestinian residents of the territories in civilian and criminal matters, while the Israel Police are to be in charge in matters pertaining to the Israeli residents of the territories and Israeli nationals visiting the territories. Cases where both an

Israeli national and a Palestinian resident of the territories are involved will be addressed by a joint police force or through coordination between the local police and the Israel Police.

[Sukenik] How many Arab policemen will there be?

[Shahal] If Camp David is to be regarded as a binding legal document, there should be a strong police force.

[Sukenik] How many thousand?

[Shahal] It should be stressed that before the Arab policemen began resigning [after the beginning of the intifadah], there had been 1,000 Arab policemen, who carried light weapons, in the territories. By the way, they had the authority to detain Israeli residents of the territories and Israelis visiting the territories as well.

[Sukenik] Well, will there again be 1,000, or perhaps 5,000 or 10,000 policemen?

[Shahal] I do not think such high numbers are at stake. We are talking about several thousand. We want law to be enforced there—which is not done sufficiently today because of the resignation of Arab policemen—and we would like the police to be of a reasonable size, in proportion to the size of the territory.

[Sukenik] Several thousand, then?

[Shahal] Definitely several thousand.

[Sukenik] What powers will they receive? For instance, will they assume authority over prisons?

[Shahal] No. Well, they will receive civilian prisons with criminal convicts. Why should we have to support these? The security prisoners, however, are to be moved to Israeli territory.

[Sukenik] Where and by whom will the policemen be trained?

[Shahal] The discussion of this aspect has not started, because substantive negotiations have not begun as yet, but out of consideration for Palestinian wishes, two countries have been earmarked as possibilities: Egypt and Jordan.

[Sukenik] Will they get weapons?

[Shahal] They will buy weapons; we will not pay for their weapons. What we are talking about is light weapons. As I said, 1,000 Palestinian policemen carried light weapons before they resigned.

[Sukenik] Who will supply the necessary equipment?

[Shahal] They will take care of that themselves on the basis of their own lists. One thing is clear: Their uniform will not resemble that of the Israel Police.

[Sukenik] You mean they will have their own recognizable symbols.

[Shahal] Definitely.

[Sukenik] There is a very serious problem with regard to Army activity in the territories, and I know that even senior Army elements do not know how they will cope with the Palestinian police. Here is a specific example: A fugitive flees to the Nabulus casbah.

[Shahal] We accounted for various situations far more complicated than your example. What kind of coordination is needed in a case where a resident of the territories commits an offense in Israel, returns to the territories, and is pursued? There are two police forces, and the local force should be in the picture. We have suggested solutions to problems like this. We have proposed coordination between the two police forces. The Israel Police will be represented there by a force that will have authority to act in instances where Israeli residents of the territories are involved. Various levels of coordination between the two police forces will be necessary. I would like to reach a model in which the two will carry out joint patrols on the level of actual footwork in the field.

[Sukenik] And you say all this is immediate, to happen as soon as agreement is achieved in Washington?

[Shahal] The police force and an infrastructure have to be prepared, but I estimate that if the two sides agree to hold discussions, this is one of the central issues to be discussed. The issue of the Palestinian police force and of the role of the Israel Police in security matters is second only to the issue of the autonomy's source of authority.

[Sukenik] Police Minister Moshe Shahal, thank you very much.

Paper Hails U.S. Envoy's Departure, Urges Ex-Envoy's Return

TA2904104393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Apr 93 p 9

[Editorial: "William Comes and Goes"]

[Text] It takes a special effort to become a disliked U.S. ambassador in Israel. William Harrop made that effort and scored a success—as far as is known, his only success here. The decision to cut his term short, expected though abrupt, leaves Israeli eyes dry.

Harrop was a questionable appointment by President Bush and Secretary of State Baker. His long stay in Africa may have trained him to introduce the natives to Western culture, but not to trample the delicate fabric of U.S.-Israeli relations. In his 18 months of service and dealings with the Shamir and Rabin governments, Harrop managed to return the American representation in Israel to the low from which it suffered in the mid-1970's, the times of Kenneth Keating and Malcolm Toon, who came after Walworth Barbour's prolonged service and before Samuel Lewis arrived.

It would be safe to assume that Lewis had some say in the decision to appoint William Brown temporary charge

d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv until President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher's new ambassador is nominated, confirmed, and in place. Brown was Lewis' deputy and the successor of his successor, Tom Pickering. The eight years Lewis spent in Israel remain memorable. He might have assumed the temporary office himself, were he not holding his current position as Christopher's aide on political planning.

Lewis served here during the hectic days of the al-Sadat initiative, the Camp David process, the expansion of U.S. influence in the region, the autonomy talks, the evacuation of the Sinai, the building of the Air Force bases in the Negev, and the Lebanon war. The U.S. Administration currently needs an ambassador of his type: one who can take up the various issues of the peace process, military relations, and economic aid without delay. It is important for Israel to have a skilled U.S. ambassador here who is sensitive to the moods of the Rabin government, the Knesset, and the public, because his reports will help the people who sent him decide when, how, and to what extent to intervene in promoting the peace process and in compensating Israel for its lost assets. In that sense, Brown is a reasonable substitute for the next few months. At the same time, while the United States is pondering the appointment of a permanent ambassador here, the status of Israel's Embassy in Washington, headed by Itamar Rabinovich, will be enhanced, because the negotiations with the Arab countries are being conducted there, in the U.S. capital. This makes it a rare opportunity to benefit from Israel's most important embassy in the world.

15 Detained Following 'Violent' Right-Wing Demonstration

TA2904055393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A mass demonstration organized by the right-wing political parties took place in Jerusalem last night to protest the government's policy in the peace talks. Following a rally in the center of town, the participants marched to the Prime Minister's Office. The demonstration disrupted traffic, the protest turned violent, and 15 people were detained for questioning, including minors.

Jerusalem police say the demonstrators violated the terms of their permit to hold the protest. They tried to break into the residence of the prime minister and later gathered outside the home of the spiritual leader of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. [passage omitted]

Three Dead, Several Injured in 28 Apr Incidents

TA2804202193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Two Arabs were killed and four wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in several incidents in the territories tonight.

In Kafr Ni'mah in the Ramallah area, an Arab was killed after aiming a home-made gun from a window at an IDF unit. The unit, which was carrying out an activity in the village, was also attacked with stones. One of the stone throwers was shot and slightly injured.

Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that in the course of another stoning incident in the Bethlehem District village of Irtah, an Arab resident was killed and two were wounded—one moderately and the other slightly—by IDF gunfire.

A 17-year-old youth was slightly wounded by soldiers in an incident in the Tulkarm District village of (Sufaydah).

Earlier today, Khalid 'Ali al-Ahil, 20, was killed by IDF gunfire in the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Official Army sources told our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik that his body was snatched by relatives. Six other Arabs were slightly wounded in riots around an IDF observation point set up in the refugee camp. [Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 28 April reports from Palestinian sources that "one man was killed and 20 were wounded by IDF gunfire in the course of disturbances in the al-Burayj refugee camp today."]

Twelve residents of al-Zahiriyah in the territories were tonight caught working in a Beersheba bakery. They were detained in a raid carried out by Beersheba police in cooperation with the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. The detainees are being interrogated, and the police intend to charge them with illegally staying in Israel. The bakery owner was detained for questioning.

IDF Presence at Crossing Reinforced Due to Sit-In

TA2804173593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The deportees in southern Lebanon since December today held a sit-in protest for the third day in a row against the resumption of the peace talks. They are situated 350 meters beyond the outer edge of the Israeli security zone at Zummarayya.

A report from the area says that since the protest began Monday [26 April], the Israeli presence has been reinforced at the Zummarayya crossing by an infantry company, two Merkava-3 tanks, four armored personnel carriers, and a water cannon.

New Aircraft Navigation System Unveiled

TA2804104093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 93 p 46

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Excerpts] RAFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] is offering the Air Force a new navigation and steering system, to be mounted on the jet fighters it purchases over the next few years.

"Lightning" is touted by RAFA'EL as the most sophisticated in the world and was unveiled to compete with similar U.S. systems. [passage omitted]

RAFA'EL began developing this sophisticated night flight system a few years ago. Based on technologies developed in its plants, RAFA'EL successfully planned a system with excellent qualities which executives claim carries one third of the price tag of similar U.S. systems: $1 million, compared to $3.5 million for similar U.S. systems.

"Lightning" comes in an elongated casing and is attached to the plane's belly. Special sensors enable the pilot to see the area they are overflying at night, which allows for a safe flight at low altitudes.

At the same time, the system enables the pilot or the copilot—in case of a two-seat jet fighter—to fire various types of missiles and bombs with utmost accuracy. RAFA'EL executives claim their system is smaller, lighter, and what is even more important, cheaper than the U.S. competition. [passage omitted]

Military, Aircraft Industries Register Losses in 1992

TA2304140693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Apr 93 p 32

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] Israel Military Industries' [IMI] losses stood at approximately $213 million in 1992, including a $99 million operational loss. These figures appear in the company's balance sheet for 1992, which was published yesterday. The operational loss registered a 19 percent drop compared with 1991, when it stood at $122 million. The total loss comprises a one-time expenditure in the sum of $114 million, most of which covered increased severance payments to employees terminated in accordance with company recovery plan.

The company's 1992 sales stood at $516 million, as compared with $562 in 1991—an 8 percent drop. The total sales for export stood at $274 million—an about 1 percent rise from 1991, when they stood at $269 million. The 1992 local market sales stood at $242 million, as compared with $293 million in 1991—a drop of about 17.5 percent. It will be noted that the balance sheet represents the business volume of the main company and of the 'Ashot Ashqelon subsidiary.

The IMI recovery plan, which was endorsed by the Government of Israel in December 1992, is based on the dismissal of 2,500 employees and the implementation of a strategic business plan for the next few years. The preparation of the strategic plan will be completed and submitted to the government within a few weeks. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that Israel Aircraft Industry has also reported heavy losses in 1992: The company lost approximately $60 million and is due to pay $90 million more in severance pay to terminated personnel. The two companies' balance sheets show that 1992 was one of the worst years in the history of the Israeli weapons industry.

Correction to Christopher Remarks Viewed

TA2704124793

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Christopher Remarks Seen as Intention Not To Discriminate," published in the 27 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 46:

Column one, last paragraph, sentence two make read: ...Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton (who was sent...(correcting name)

Buwayz Receives Message From Christopher

NC2804174693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has received a message from his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher dealing with the peace process and the ongoing talks in Washington. He [not further specified] expressed his optimism following the Lebanese-Israeli round of talks held in Washington yesterday.

Deportees' Statements on Sit-In, Peace Talks

Palestinian Delegation Attacked

JN2704192393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 93

["Statement No. 4 Sit-In on the Outskirts of the Homeland," issued by the deportees in southern Lebanon on 27 April—recorded; read by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, and may God's peace and blessings be upon the master of the messengers. Statement No. 4: Sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland.

O our people, who are besieged in Palestine, O our kinfolk in the diaspora camps outside the usurped homeland! We are calling you from the furnace of the confrontation sit-in. We spent a difficult night in a sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland, with the soldiers of cold and with the terrorist cliques directing their artillery fire toward us to exercise their Nazi games. It is strange that a group of people, who have departed from the national rank, are heading, at the same time, toward Washington to take the oath of loyalty and obedience to the new world order, by denying the will of the Palestinian people, who reject the whole talks of humiliation and disgrace. This group ignores our people's wounds and sufferings.

O our heroic, mujahid, and steadfast people: You are declaring your rejection of the march of surrender through blood and sacrifice. So, heroic martyr Ahmad Nazmi Hamdan fell in the martyrs' city of Khan Yunis to declare to the whole world that the so-called Palestinian negotiating delegation does not represent anyone but itself. It even does not represent itself. O our steadfast people, you are staging protest marches against the delegation of retreat in defense of the holy land, Jerusalem, Yafo, Haifa, Nabulus, Janin, and Gaza. You are declaring strikes to protest the defeatist delegation, which is going to Washington, bowing and with no will.

Greetings to you, O our people everywhere, as you are displaying pride, honor, and strength. Greetings to you, while you are all relying on God and standing one rank in the face of defeatism and defeatists. Greetings of respect to you from your sons in southern Lebanon, who are continuing their sit-in for the second day on the gateway to Palestine and on the outskirts of the beloved homeland. Our kinfolk, be sure that victory comes from patience. Be patient and steadfast and be sure that your unity is the best weapon in the face of the enemy. Unite your ranks and deprive the enemy of humanity of the opportunity to harm your unity. Be one rank regardless of your trends. Do not dispute lest you become weak, and be patient. We pledge you, O the people of sacrifice, to remain loyal to you and we will defend your existence on Palestine's soil until God grants us victory and power. When you are asked about victory, say it is imminent.

[Signed] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, for all the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon

Return of 'Old Deportees' Derided

JN2804194393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Apr 93

["Statement No. 5 Sit-In on the Outskirts of the Homeland," issued by the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon on 28 April—recorded; read by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Thanks be to God, and may peace and blessings be upon the most honorable of all messengers, Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions and followers until doomsday. Statement No. 5: Sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland.

O our steadfast Palestinian people on the soil of the beloved homeland, O brave ones who reject surrender and humiliation, O heroic giants: Greetings to you from your sons, who are staging a sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland. Greetings of respect to you for the honorable position you took yesterday when you declared your marvelous strike. You have proven to the entire world that the so-called Palestinian negotiating team does not represent any of you. You have announced that no one can conspire against you and your cause. You have frankly said no to the march of surrender, to the humiliating march of surrender.

Greetings to you O heroes, our people, our fathers, our sons, our women, our Arab nation, our Islamic nation: We are declaring that we have decided to continue our sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland, face-to-face with the soldiers of tyranny and aggression. We declare this despite the severe cold and the great suffering. We declare this, hoping that the world's conscience will wake up from its sleep and drunkenness. We declare this, hoping that the so-called Palestinian negotiating team will stop taking part in the negotiations and will decide to return to the national ranks. We declare this at a time when the tyrannical occupation authorities declare their agreement to take back 35 [as heard] of the old deportees as a price for ignoring the issue of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

We frankly say that if these people will return at the expense of the deportee issue, then this will be a detestable crime, a heavy blow, and an act of treachery. It will be an eternal disgrace for those who accept that position. We, the deportees, clearly declare that we will support the return of any son of the Palestinian people, who number more than 4 million deportees in all. No one can tell us to achieve our goals from our suffering among the rocks on this barren land. We pledge to you, our brave people, to keep our promises to you until God grants us success. Might is for God, His messenger, and the faithful. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, on behalf of all the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon

Al-Rantisi News Conference

JN2704204193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 93

["Text" of news conference by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon, with unidentifed reporters on 27 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a few hours separate us from the beginning of the round of talks. Do you expect the Israeli Government to launch a surprising initiative to return the deportees as a gesture of concession?

Al-Rantisi: I do not expect that because we are used to Israel's intransigence and its denial of the Security Council's resolutions.

Question: Is your sit-in a continuous one?

Al-Rantisi: As you know, it is a protest sit-in. By staging a general strike today, We have showed the whole world our protest over the return of the delegation—which does not represent us—to the Washington talks. We and our Palestinian people have stripped the Palestinian delegation of any Palestinian authorization to speak for them.

Question: Dr. al-Rantisi, a member of the Palestinian delegation says: We will negotiate with goodwill and will wait for the implementation of the U.S. guarantees.

Al-Rantisi: This, in fact, was repeated hundreds of times by the members of the Palestinian delegation. They were disappointed each time. They said they would test U.S. and Israeli intentions once more. I believe they will do this hundreds of times in the future.

Question: What about the guarantees?

Al-Rantisi: Nothing of the U.S. guarantees that preceded the Madrid conference was achieved. How can we expect anything from a side which has not fulfilled its promises in the past. As they say, once bitten, twice shy.

Question: Regarding your plan for tomorrow, is there intention of moving toward the Israeli lines?

Al-Rantisi: This march is, as we have said, a protest sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland. Therefore, we are staging a sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland.

Question: If the delegation did not go to the negotiations and the negotiations stopped, what would, in your opinion, be the best way to discuss the Palestine question?

Al-Rantisi: In fact, what was taking place before the negotiations is that the 10 Palestinian forces wanted the delegation to take a heroic stand. As a result, it announced that it would not go there unless the Palestinian deportees returned. Israel then announced it would not return them before the negotiations. Therefore, the Palestinian delegation bowed to Israel and will also have to bow to it again. They gave a victory to Israel. The alternative is no victory for Israel.

Question: Dr. al-Rantisi, what is your reply to Rabin telling the Palestinian delegation that this is a historic opportunity for the Palestinians to run their affairs by themselves.

Al-Rantisi: My reply is that this opportunity is historic for the Zionist invaders.

Question: What is your comment on their statements on Gaza and their readiness to return it to the Palestinians, and are these statements due to the pressure the intifadah is causing?

Al-Rantisi: Like any other people with self-respect, we will not relinquish any inch of our land. If Gaza will return at the expense of the rest of Palestine, we do not want it.

Sit-In Extended

JN2804113493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1046 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Marj al-Zuhur—recorded]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees, held a news conference near the Zummarayya border post this morning. Responding to reporters' questions, he said: We announce the extension of our sit-in for another 24 hours. We will decide what other steps will be taken tomorrow.

He stressed that he never expected the negotiations to yield anything, whether before or after the deportation. Any result, he said, will be at the expense of the Palestinian people and their cause and rights.

Regarding the old deportees the occupation authorities reportedly agreed to return home, Dr. al-Rantisi said: If their return comes at the expense of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, then this will be disgraceful. If they return within the framework of the return of all 4 million Palestinian deportees [refugees] and not as substitutes for them, then we support and encourage that.

Asked about Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's statement in Washington that the first session of talks was fruitless, al-Rantisi said: It is hoped that 'Abd-al-Shafi would stop where he is and return home because Israel will not give the Palestinian delegation anything.

Army Fires at Israeli Warplanes Over Sidon

NC2804183393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the south throughout the day. The Lebanese Army fired at a formations trying to fly low over Sidon and its vicinity at 1415.

Overflights Continue

NC2904083293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes this morning flew at high altitude over south Lebanon, concentrating on al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al- Tuffah.

Reportage on Visits by Chinese, Czech Delegations

Economy Minister Discusses Ties

NC2804185893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Economy and Trade Minister Hagop Demerdjian met today with a visiting Chinese economic delegation headed by Tian Runzhi, assistant minister of foreign economic relations and trade. They reviewed bilateral economic relations and how to develop them.

Lebanese sources said that China's contribution to Lebanon's reconstruction can be summed up thus: encouraging Chinese companies to submit reconstruction tenders, financing some small projects, establishing joint ventures with Lebanon, providing some technical expertise, and renewing the economic cooperation agreement.

Demerdjian told the delegation that Lebanon's reconstruction program, which covers 10 days [as heard], seeks to get all countries, including China, involved in infrastructure projects. He said the public sector's role is to boost and guide the private sector through joint projects.

Demerdjian then met with a Czech economic delegation headed by (Vlastimil Lawrence), deputy director general of the Foreign Trade Ministry. They reviewed economic relations and the draft of a trade agreement.

Al-Hirawi Receives Chinese Team

NC2904084893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a Chinese economic delegation this morning, when they discussed economic issues and the possibility of signing bilateral economic agreements.

Sudanese Minister: Training Occurred Two Years Ago

NC2804172193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Sudanese State Minister Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il visited Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Deputy Chamber of Deputies Speaker Ilyas al-Firzli today. He discussed with them ways to promote relations between Sudan and Lebanon.

The Sudanese minister said the training that the Sudanese leadership said was carried out in Beirut is actually more than two years old. It was given when the situation in Lebanon was unstable, and the Lebanese Government did not know about it. [passage omitted]

Peace Talks Delegation Head Views U.S. 'Full Partner' Role

NC2804160193 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Damascus, AL-SAFIR—Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral negotiations with Israel, has said U.S. pledges and measures to remove the obstacles facing the negotiations will test the credibility of U.S. involvement as a full partner in the peace process.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, al-'Allaf said there is no hope of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict if Israel does not change its policy of refusing to implement the UN resolutions to let the region's peoples devote themselves to their economic and technological development.

The Syrian official added that the cordon states foreign ministers' decision to agree to resume the ninth round of negotiations "is an expression of the Arab parties' hope that the U.S. sponsor has realized the need to remove the obstacles that Israel places on the path of the peace process. U.S. pledges and measures to remove some of these obstacles will test the credibility of U.S. involvement in its new capacity as a full partner."

Defining the "full partner," al-'Allaf said: "He is the sponsor who emphasizes the need for the negotiating parties' commitment to the bases of international legitimacy and to the resolutions and principles on which the initiative, the peace process, is based."

He added: "This role of full partner should be devoted to the attempt to overcome the obstacles placed before the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and to the real implementation of the principle of returning the occupied Arab territories for peace."

Asked what he expects the first results of the peace talks to be, the Syrian official said: "We hope this will happen from the first day of the ninth round of talks [as published], because the important thing is that the other side, which has impeded any real progress, that is, Israel, shows it is serious and has the political will."

Al-'Allaf called on Israel to show it is willing to withdraw from all the occupied Arab Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian territories to pave the way for the other steps for which the resolutions and principles of the peace process call.

He said he hoped "the ending of aggression against the Arab territories and peoples will be followed by a period of just peace that will allow these peoples and others in the region to focus on developing their economies and technological advance to secure a better life for their sons."

Al-'Allaf stressed the importance of the U.S. role as a full partner in the negotiations. He said everything in the negotiations depends on Washington's seriousness, because it has a great influence on the Israeli side and on its credibility and sincerity.

On whether this summer will see solutions, al-'Allaf said: "I don't believe it is a question of summer or winter, but one of having all the parties agree that a just peace cannot be established while one inch of Arab territory remains occupied and any Arab right is violated."

Ninth Round Peace Talks Called Test for Israel, U.S.

JN2804154193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The ninth round of peace talks opened yesterday amid indications that the Israeli position has not changed. No substantial progress has been made to show that Israel is indeed planning to view the peace process more seriously.

It is premature to judge the peace process. However, Israeli proposals and Israeli officials' statements do not give a positive impression, nor do they justify any measure of optimism or expectations for the success of this round.

Naturally, the Arabs and the world are waiting to see whether Israel will come up with clear answers to several questions that can shorten the peace process and dot all the i's.

The first question is perhaps how serious it is about peace, and consequently, how willing it is to implement international resolutions on which the peace process was initially launched. These resolutions affirm the inadmissibility of the occupation of territory by force and annul Israeli decisions, which are considered null and void by the international community. Foremost among these decisions are the annexation of the Syrian Golan and Jerusalem.

The fate of the peace process depends largely on Israel's answer to this question. If Israel were truly honest in its quest for peace, as it claims, then there would be no alternative to implementing international resolutions, withdrawing from all occupied Arab territory, acknowledging the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and stopping the suppressive practices against Palestinian citizens living under occupation.

Israel has so far been hedging such questions, suggesting vague and hazy ideas about its concept of peace. During the past eight rounds, Israel has not made any positive proposals or voiced any substantial ideas that could provide a basis for comprehensive, just peace in the region. On the contrary, Israel has been placing obstacles in the face of peace, and wasted the early rounds on formalities and modalities that do not have anything to do with the essence of peace.

When the world was waiting for Israel to prove its desire for peace, especially after the Syrian delegation presented its comprehensive document containing all necessary elements for the desired peace, Israel started planting the path of peace with mines and thorns. This began with its decision to deport hundreds of Palestinians, then imposing a siege on the West Bank and Gaza, and finally giving the Israeli Army and settlers a free hand to commit massacres against the Palestinian people. Israel has, moreover, affirmed its refusal to withdraw to 1967 borders, talking only about limited withdrawals and keeping some Arab territory under the pretext of guaranteeing Israeli security. This is in addition to considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel. All these acts signal a disregard for international will and UN resolutions.

The foundations of peace are very clear. These foundations have been agreed upon by all nations, and are enshrined in resolutions on which the Madrid conference was convened, to be followed by negotiations in Washington. These resolutions must be put into effect if we are to achieve peace. This is exactly what the Arabs are demanding, given that they do not want anything more than the implementation of international resolutions on all fronts. Arab demands are in line with UN resolutions and the demands of the international community, primarily the cosponsors of the peace process, who undertook to play the role of full, honest partner in the talks.

For its part, Israel has to show a willingness to implement these international resolutions. The cosponsors of the peace process, especially the United States, should also assume their role to make the talks succeed. This is so obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace can be removed.

It goes without saying that if Israel does not change its current policy and its disregard for international resolutions on the peace process, and if the United States does not apply pressure on Israel, then the peace talks will not achieve their desired aim. The ninth round is a test of Israel and the U.S. Administration together. This is because the Arabs would never pursue futile negotiations forever.

Press: Nothing New in Israeli Position

JN2804112693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the ninth round of the Washington talks, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The first session of talks has showed that the ninth round of peace talks will not produce anything new regarding the Israeli stand, which has become well known during the past rounds of talks. For, the Israeli negotiators have continued to evade commitment to the tracks of the peace process, demanding to know the nature of the peace we offer. It appears that the Arab parties are required to abandon all national and pan-Arab rights and confine their deliberations with the Israelis to discussions on the means of defining peace in a manner that suits Israeli terms and conditions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel is returning to the ninth round of talks with nothing new. It is indeed repeating its old stands. It is attempting to evade compliance with the obligations and requirements of peace, which are at the heart of international peace efforts. For their part, the Arab sides are willing to meet the requirements of peace.

AL-BA'TH stresses that just and comprehensive peace is the peace enshrined in the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy—the peace which is based on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: The Arab sides taking part in the Washington talks will accept nothing short of comprehensive peace, which allows for no abandonment of rights or territory. They are well aware that the margin for maneuvering available to Israeli negotiators has become very narrow. What counts here is the role of the full partner pledged to be played by the U.S. Administration. It goes without saying that it is premature now to speak of the results of this role.

Discussing the same issue, the newspaper TISHRIN believes that the results of the ninth round of talks will be contingent upon practical and tangible steps the Israeli Government could take. Such steps, the paper adds, rather than showy, deceptive pronouncements and claims are the yardstick which should be used to judge the sincerity of approach.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Just peace must be based on full Israeli compliance with international resolutions, which constitute the terms of reference for the peace talks. The Rabin government must honor these resolutions, which provide for full and complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and also for ensuring the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination. Given the Arabs' concern for achieving just peace, U.S. pledges regarding the resumption of talks underlined three issues; namely, territory, security, and peace; that is, the restoration of the occupied Arab territories, the consequent introduction of joint security arrangements, and the establishment of peace, which the Arabs have consistently endeavored to achieve.

TISHRIN adds: Talk of historic decisions will remain useless unless the implementation of international resolutions results in complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories; namely, from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH believes that it is unrealistic to wager on a possible unforced change, albeit a minor one, in Israeli policy conducive to positive developments pertaining to the peace process,

whose ninth round of talks has just begun in Washington. Such wagers reflect attempts at self-delusion, the paper notes.

The paper adds: Israel's deceptive discourse and approach as well as its rejectionist stands have remained unchanged. Even the little optimism one had on the eve of the ninth round of talks in light of the repeated U.S. pledges and assurances that the Clinton administration will play the role of a full and honest partner in the talks and that it will work seriously to advance the peace process, have faded. The Tel Aviv rulers have denied the world community the chance to experience relief over the emergence of such an optimism. For, they hastened to deflate this optimism through extremely provocative and defiant statements made by Rabin only a few hours before the convocation of this round of talks. In these statements, Rabin rejected Israeli withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 borders, held on to Jerusalem, and failed to recognize Palestinian rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Israeli side—contrary to the Arab sides which headed for Washington, driven by a sincere desire to achieve peace and fully committed to make it a reality—has come to Washington, as everybody acknowledges, carrying with it vague dossiers as well as instructions meant to bring about obstruction and procrastination. This renders this round of talks mere bogus sessions, in which only bickering and political debate are exchanged. Worse still, this would indeed turn the Washington talks into a trap meant by Israel to kill the current peace opportunity.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The last remaining wager to render the last opportunity a success, inasmuch as it hinges on the Arab sides and their firmness and cohesion, is also contingent on the performance of the U.S. Administration and its readiness to honor its pledges regarding the implementation of UN resolutions. It is also contingent on a U.S. effort to thwart Israeli maneuvers, make Israel succumb to the wishes of the international community regarding peace, and make it return all rights and territories to their rightful owners.

Press Urges U.S. 'Intervention' To Save Talks

JN2904100293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Ninth Round and the Difficult Beginning," AL-BA'TH says: Although it is still too early to judge the outcome of the ninth round of talks in Washington, the beginning of this round was not different from the beginnings of the previous eight rounds. The Arab positive attitude, demonstrated by the decision to participate in this round despite Israeli obstacles, was met in the first sessions with new Israeli intransigence, insistence on discussing impractical and superficial issues, and bickering over language, all of which could hamper the ninth round of talks at its beginning. This picture was not changed by the new development in this round; namely, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's meeting with the heads of delegations in an effort to activate the peace process and suggest a new beginning to boost this process after one and a half years since the Madrid Conference, and after four months since it came to a standstill.

AL-BA'TH adds: When the Arabs and all those concerned for peace in the world ask the United States to play such a role, they do so because, first, the United States is capable of playing such a role and, second, it was the party that launched the peace process and offered the initiative and set the principles for that process. It has also been the key sponsor of this process since it began and it is the world major superpower which is responsible for establishing peace in the world.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Arabs have positively and effectively cooperated with the peace initiative and done their best to ensure its success in achieving the desired goal of establishing the just and comprehensive peace and ending wars and tension in this important region of the world. The Arabs have confirmed that they support peace and the peace process and the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy. Unless Israel yields to international legitimacy and its resolutions and the bases of the peace process, and unless the United States uses all its influence in that direction, then the peace process will continue to go round in circles and may lose its appeal. Its opportunities may also disappear from political and diplomatic circles.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The ninth round will provide a decisive test of the credibility of the commitments and assurances to boost the peace process in accordance with the bases set for that process. That credibility and responsibility concern the two cosponsors, and the United States in particular.

Under the headline "Land Key to Peace," TISHRIN says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has urged the heads of delegations attending the Washington talks to immediately tackle the substantive issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict and not waste time on procedural matters. During his meeting with the heads of delegations, Christopher also stressed that the United States is determined to play the role of the full, fair, and practical partner to ensure the success of the peace talks.

TISHRIN editorial continues: The U.S. secretary's initiative is praiseworthy and reflects an interest by the Clinton administration to see the Washington talks out from the long, dark tunnel. Nevertheless, the facts that emerged in the past are still there. At the head of these facts is the continued Israeli intransigence and the constant attempts by the Tel Aviv rulers to circumvent the foundations of the peace process, particularly the return of land.

The paper adds: The U.S. secretary of state has explained that the principle of land for peace demands that Israel leave the territory it occupied in 1967. This is the core of

the problem. Israel's rulers refuse to leave the territory. They also offer the Palestinian people a limited autonomy that extends over a period of five years. What is required, however, is a recognition of the Palestinian people's political and national rights and allowing them to establish a national and legislative authority in the occupied territories. Furthermore, the Israelis have not yet said they are prepared to withdraw from all the Golan Heights despite a Syrian call for complete peace in return for complete withdrawal. Nor have the Israelis indicated that they plan to withdraw from southern Lebanon in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and dismantle Lahd's agent statelet and mercenary army. Therefore, the Arabs have been asking the United States to fulfill a full, effective, and fair role. In view of fact that the current round is, in more than one way, crucial, particularly as regards the future of peace in the Middle East, it is quite imperative for the United States to make a decisive and positive intervention to ensure that the talks would not be lost in the labyrinths of Israeli maneuvering.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: A clear Israeli commitment to return the occupied territories is the key to the peace process and U.S. efforts must concentrate on such a commitment. The fair partner cannot but stand on the side of UN Security Council resolutions, the charters of international legitimacy, and the principles of international law.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries: No one doubts that the U.S. Administration knows more than anybody else the nature of obstacles Israel is placing on the path of the peace process and the mines it plants inside the negotiation halls and on all tracks, which complement each other. Also, no one doubts the U.S. ability to check Israel's defiance of the international community and the will of international legitimacy. When Washington does not do what the required fair role demands, it will be putting at stake its credibility, through which it is trying to draw a new picture different from that of the Cold War. The Arabs, who have given peace a new chance, expect Washington to fulfill its pledges and assume its responsibility to implement its assurances and do what the full partner role requires.

India

Chavan: No Breaking Ties With Pakistan

BK2904034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said in the Rajya Sabha yesterday that Pakistan has not responded positively so far to India's request for extraditing members of the Memon family—prime suspects in the Bombay blasts. Replying to a query on the incident, he said it would not be prudent to cut off diplomatic ties with Pakistan as demanded by some members. Mr. Chavan expressed inability to say anything on the connection between the Bombay explosions and the Ayodhya issue till the government conclusively establishes a link.

The home minister said the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] cannot be entrusted with the investigation of the case unless the Maharashtra government makes a request for it. He said the central agencies, including the CBI and RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], are helping the state government in the investigation. The government has also sought the help of Interpol. Giving details of the arrests, Mr. Chavan said out of the 89 people arrested, 12 are Pakistan-trained. He said nine customs officials and 11 police personnel have been suspended so far.

Further on Policemen's 'Revolt' in Kashmir

2,000 Released

BK2804161893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 28 (AFP)—Kashmir authorities Wednesday freed some 2,000 protesting policemen disarmed by the Indian Army in Kashmir and ordered them to return to work, an official spokesman said.

The spokesman also said 21 leaders, who encouraged the policemen to go on strike last week to protest the death of a colleague arrested for having alleged links to Muslim militants, were taken away by soldiers.

Indian troops stormed a police control room here early Wednesday and disarmed about 1,000 policemen who had laid siege to the building for six days. Another 1,000 were disarmed elsewhere in Kashmir state overnight.

Many of the 2,000 policemen shouted slogans like "We want justice!" and "Long live Kashmir Police Union!" while walking out of the control room which was put under the control of paramilitary forces, witnesses said.

The policemen were demanding the arrest of a senior police officer, who they allege condoned the death of their colleague.

Curfew Lifted

BK2904040693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the day curfew in Srinagar and Anantnag has been lifted. The curfew was imposed as a precautionary measure yesterday morning after the security forces disarmed the JKAP [Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police] personnel who were agitating against the death of one of their colleagues. An official spokesman said in view of the improved situation, there will be no day curfew in any part of the valley today.

Rao: Defense Policy Not 'Aggressive'

BK2804091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister has assured the nation that there will not be any letup in the defense preparedness which will be kept at the optimum level, no matter what the constraints are. He was replying to the discussion on the demands of grants of the Defense Ministry, which was approved by the Lok Sabha after rejecting all opposition cut motions. The budget estimates of defense services for 1993-94 totaled over 19,180 crore rupees.

Mr. Narasimha Rao told the members that the defense supplies from Russia have resumed and there has been an improvement in defense spares supplies after the visit of President Yeltsin. Rejecting the opposition charge that the government as not having a defense policy, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that our policy does not have any aggressive designs. Though the cold war has ended, the tension has escalated at the regional level and the government is aware of this. Now many countries have nuclear weapons. In spite of having capability, India has not launched any nuclear weapons program.

On various points raised by members, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that there has not been any decline in the defense allocation which has been over 14 percent in the budget in the last few years.

Commentary Welcomes Rao Assurances on Defense

BK2904060093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Commentary by M.K.Dhar, diplomatic editor of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] At a time when the public and parliament stressed the need for a reassessment of the threat to India's security, it is heartening to hear the prime minister give the assurance that the country's defense needs are being adequately taken care of despite the resource constraints. Mr. Narasimha Rao's reply to the debate on the Defense Ministry's budget in the Lok Sabha serves as a reassurance in the face of the disturbed security environment in West Asia and in India's immediate neighborhood which calls for greater vigilance and defense preparedness.

The situation in the subcontinent would have been stable and tension-free had Pakistan not indulged in a proxy war and sponsored terrorism against this country. Though Islamabad has itself removed any lingering doubt about its weapon-oriented nuclear program, Mr. Rao, even in the face of pressure from the main opposition in parliament, has chosen to stick to the path taken by India of development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

Members' concern at the disruption of supplies of spare parts as well as equipment from the erstwhile Soviet Union is certainly genuine in the context of the current threat perception. However, despite an agonizing delay the matter is now being sorted out and the agreements signed during the recent visit of the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, are expected to lead to full resumption of such supplies. Some supplies have already started arriving. Arrangements for coproduction of defense equipment and spares are also being firmed up.

Obsolescence is built into any high-performance defense system and the need to replace aging MiG-21 fleet which has stood India in good stead is acutely felt. After much hesitation and careful evaluation, the decision on the Light Combat Aircraft [LCA] project was finally taken last week. The first high-performance LCA is expected to be test-flown in 1996 so that production can begin in 1997. This would be a major step toward indigenization as is the production of the main battle tank Arjun which is undergoing extensive trials and is expected to go into full production by 1995- 96.

The prime minister's announcement that the National Security Council would be resurrected is also welcome. It is necessary to infuse confidence among the people in the country's defense preparedness as they are willing to sacrifice to preserve its territorial integrity and unity. This is also important because the Armed Forces are often called out in aid of civil authority to combat foreign-sponsored terrorism and subversion.

Chavan: Security for Officials Inadequate

BK2804165093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The home minister told the Lok Sabha today that nonavailability of Special Protection Guard [SPG] cover to late Rajiv Gandhi had diluted the quality of the security arrangements. He said the decision of the then National Front government in February 1990 proved to be inadequate to meet the security requirements.

Mr. S.B. Chavan was making a statement on the Justice Verma Commission report. The minister pointed out that the Intelligence Bureau had drawn the attention of the center and the state governments to the lapses by the concerned police agencies in regard to the security of the late leader. The Verma Commission opined that the threat perception to a person in public office arises out of his actions during office and remains even after demitting the office. Therefore, the security cover to him should continue in the same scale. The home minister said the then government decided to withdraw the SPG cover to the late prime minister because the act concerned did not cover ex-prime ministers. He informed the house that the position has since been reviewed and the SPG Act amended to provide the required security cover to former prime ministers and their families. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, laid a copy of the statement on the table of the Rajya Sabha.

Smuggled Explosives in Bombay Blasts

BK2804093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The government today said that the ongoing investigations into the Bombay bomb blasts indicate that explosives used were smuggled into the country. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha today that one such consignment landed as early as December last year. He said a sizeable consignment of weapons and grenades landed at Shekadi village of Raigarh District on the 2nd and 3d of February this year under the charge of Ibrahim Razzak Abdul Memon, alias Tiger, who had fled the country. He said the Maharashtra police have also reported that similar landings of arms and explosives also took place on the 3d of December last year and 9th of January this year at Dighi village in Srivardhan Taluka [revenue area]. He said a notorious smuggler, Mr. Dusa, was involved in this. Mr. Chavan said that investigations point the needle of suspicion to Pakistan.

The minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, said 89 people have so far been arrested in connection with the Bombay blasts and 12 of them were trained in Pakistan. He said some Customs officials have also been suspended and detained under TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act].

In the Rajya Sabha today, the nominated member, Mr. R.K. Karanjia, expressed concern that the antinationals involved in the communal riots and bomb blasts in Bombay have not been apprehended so far. Raising the matter during zero hour, he said diplomatic relation with Pakistan should not continue as Islamabad's hand in these incidents had been found conclusively. He wondered why India had not so far declared Pakistan as a terrorist state. Mr. Karanjia alleged that 50,000 Pakistani citizens are illegally living in Bombay with a motive of creating disturbances and demanded action against them at the earliest. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member, Mr. Vishnukant Shastri, also demanded a thorough probe into the communal riots and bomb blasts in Bombay.

Terrorist Prevention Act Extended Until 1995

BK2804133893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today passed a bill to extend TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention

Act] for two more years up to 1995 and amplify some of the existing provisions in the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act 1985.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] members opposing the bill staged a walkout.

Replying to the discussion on the issue, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that TADA should never be used against politicians and trade unionists unless they are involved in criminal cases. Mr. Chavan said the question of the youth going in for terrorist activities as a vocation for earning money will have to be examined seriously. Mr. Chavan said he will issue guidelines for the chief ministers on the right implementation of TADA.

Criminal Procedures Amendment Bill Adopted

BK2804162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today unanimously passed the Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill 1993. It provides for transfer of persons involved in terrorist activities and attachment and forfeiture of properties.

Replying to the discussion on the bill, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the Pakistan Government will be requested to cooperate with India in the return of those responsible for the bomb blasts in Bombay. About the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Mr. Chavan said that every effort will be made for the extradition of Prabhakaran from Sri Lanka, the man accused in the case.

Six Seriously Injured in West Bengal Blast

BK2904035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] In West Bengal, six persons were seriously injured in a bomb blast at Metiaburuz police station area in South 24-Parganas District yesterday. The police are investigating.

Foreign Investment Proposals Cleared

BK2904083093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The government has cleared 227 proposals envisaging total direct foreign investment including NRI [Non Resident Indians] investment of over 1,000 crore rupees till the end of last month. The proposals cleared by the empowered committee are in the field of engineering goods, machinery items, textiles, electronics, chemicals, petroleum and natural gas, food processing, and agrobased industries. They also include gift wares, granite and ceramic decorated tiles, rubber and leather goods, power generation equipment, transportation equipment, and hospitals. This information was given by the minister of state for industry, Mrs. Krishna Sahi, in the Rajya Sabha today.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni on Presidential Election

LD2504122193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in a speech this morning at a gathering of officials and members of the Tehran Province Islamic labor councils and labor house, considered the highest objective of the Islamic Revolution to be the establishment of a system of social justice and defense of the community's deprived stratum. He said: Today Islamic Iran is the center of gravity of the world of Islam and because of her implementation of Islamic laws, hegemonic powers oppose her. Therefore all strata of the community are dutybound to strive toward the advancement and enhancment of Islamic Iran. Laborers, as the most fundamental agents of production, should properly recognize today's complicated conditions and tomorrow's more complicated world, avail themselves of new techniques and knowledge, and—along the way to pass through existing difficulties—increase their motivation for the country's economic growth.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni called the Islamic revolution of Iran as the beginning of an age of promise. He stressed: The path chosen by Islamic Iran is the only one for struggling against tyranny and economic underdevelopment in the present world and is a source of pride for all the world's tyrannized people.

At the end of his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni considered the people's active participation in the presidential election to be a sign of feeling of responsibility, economic maturity, and their commitment to the country's fate. He said: During the presidential election all of us must prove, through our widespread participation, that we are not indifferent to the fate of the country. The extent of participation in the election will demonstrate the level of the people's awareness and support for the Islamic system and revolution, and it will be the best criterion for demonstrating the Iranian people's revolutionary and Islamic enthusiasm to the world.

Majles Speaker Discusses Election Participation

NC2904081193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Islamic Majles Speaker Akbar Nateq-Nuri is visiting Hormozgan Province, where he has inspected sections of the Bafq- Bandar-e'Abbas railroad that are under construction. Our correspondent reports on Nateq-Nuri's visit and his presence among residents of Hormozgan Province:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Nateq-Nuri inspected the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railroad and said he was satisfied with progress, describing it as a source of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran in view of the scale and volume of work involved.

He added: The Bafq-Bandar-e'Abbas project involves various interesting activities, especially bridge construction. All the local conditions have been considered in planning and implementing this project.

Nateq-Nuri addressed a grand gathering of Bandar-e 'Abbas residents last night in the Emami mosque and said he appreciated their tumultuous welcome. He focused on the importance of the presidential election and stressed the need for popular unified participation. He said: Your presence on the scene is extremely useful. The world places importance on your presence and with an election coming up soon, every vote will help the presence in marches on World Jerusalem Day and on similar occasions. An active, joyful presence on the future political scene is a nerve-shattering response to the enemies' idle prattling. [end recording]

The speaker addressed a gathering of Shiite and Sunni clerics in Hormozgan Province and stressed the clergy's importance in the guidance of Islamic society.

Reportage on Naval Maneuvers in Gulf

'Global Arrogance' Condemned

LD2704154393 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Bushehr, April 27, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani today said the 'Victory-4' maneuvers has all the features seen in surface and submarine naval, air and missile execercise as well as in the electronic warfare. He said the maneuvers, underway in central Persian Gulf waters between Lavan Island and Nowruz oil field, involves ships, submarines and aircraft including helicopters, planes as well as missile pads. Some 36,000 personnel are taking part in the maneuver, he added. The games are being jointly conducted by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Army. Shamkhani hailed. [as received]

He referred to "massive and sceptical" presence of global arrogance in the Persian Gulf and said that the U.S. vessels, present in the waterway number 84 at present. Shamkhani said global arrogance was pursuing its hostility against the Islamic Republic by trying to impose an economic blockade, destabilize oil prices and prevent the world from providing iran with developmental credit.

The ten-day maneuvers started on Monday.

Exercises Continue 29 Apr

LD2904104393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report from Central News Unit correspondent, Busher]

[Text] On the fourth day of the joint Victory-4 maneuver, 36,000-strong valiant troops of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and courageous combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps continued their special air and sea operations, crushing the forces of a hypothetical enemy. Again this morning, 14,000 square kilometers of the Persian Gulf's blue waters became the arena of the naval forces of the Army and the Guards Corps. On the fourth day of this maneuver, the active forces successfully performed the operation of deploying troops by helicopter. The helicopters were refueled over the sea and floating vessels. The helicopters opened fire and fired air-to-surface missiles on vessels of the hypothetical enemy.

The concluding operations of this morning's Victory-4 maneuver included attacks by fighters of the hypothetical enemy, which were successfully repulsed, thanks to the anti-aircraft fire of our frigates and warships. According to a report received from the operational headquarters of the joint Victory-4 maneuver, this afternoon and tonight the frigates and warships will continue the operations by firing on illuminated targets. The forces will also carry out amphibious operations in the area.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, the Victory-4 maneuver is part of the annual exercises staged by the Republic of Iran's defense forces, which are performed fully independently in order to give the necessary preparation to our forces to safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf region against the aggressive foreign forces.

Several Said Killed in Sardasht Blast 24 Apr

NC2904094793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The party committee in Sardasht reports that a time bomb placed in the guards area in Sardasht Governorate exploded on 24 April, causing heavy damage to the governorate building and shattering all the windows.

The report states that several of the antihuman enemy died and regime agents were wounded. Only two wounded have been identified: Habibi, in charge of the guards, and Bizhan Moradi, in charge of the governorate's (?administrative) section.

After the explosion, the regime's antihuman forces surrounded the governorate building on the pretext of seeking the perpetrators. They searched houses in the area and, using the pretext, arrested all the Kordish employees of the Sardasht Governorate and handed

them over to the court for interrogation and (?investigation). Since no possible evidence of their involvement could be found, they were released.

Khamene'i Addresses Hajj Organizers, Criticizes Egypt

LD2804141393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1007 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to the organizers of the hajj in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran on 28 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, I sincerely welcome and thank all the esteemed gentlemen and sisters who carry out the services regarding that great obligation and unique Islamic duty of the hajj. God willing, you will manage to perform that obligation and serve the esteemed pilgrims to Mecca. [passage omitted]

The hajj is a reserve for the Islamic world; a reserve, which if used properly, would be of benefit to the world of Islam. If that reserve is not used or is used improperly, then the Islamic world, with all its great needs, would become deprived of it. Or God forbid, it may even be harmed for the lack of it. Well, we Muslim people who are living in this part of the world do not have control over the wider dimensions of the hajj affairs. We are in control of ourselves, our own affairs, and the effects that it has. We must implement hajj in a way to benefit the Islamic world. Hajj is a center for congregation. [passage omitted]

Take a look at the various corners of the world and see how these oppressive powers are treating Muslims. Their first intention is to keep Muslims in ignorance. They do their utmost to undermine anyone who warns the Muslims. This is the greatest effort of the arrogants—the world powers and bullies. They do not want any guiding light to be around. They do not want any awakening force to be around to alert the people. For this reason, they are against the Islamic Republic.

Their opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran is not because of the false accusations they level against the Islamic Republic. They claim that human rights are not observed in the Islamic Republic—which is, of course, totally wrong and false—not because they really attach importance to human rights or because they consider human beings important. Until some time ago, we thought that they—the Westerners and Americans who have falsely raised the banner of human rights—did not consider Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans to be important. They believed themselves to be important.

Now it has come to light that they consider no human being as important, and whenever their wishes and lusts dictate, they are prepared to destroy any human being from any part of the world.

You saw a few weeks ago in America a group of people with deviant ideas. We do not know what their beliefs were; it is not clear to us. They say there is nothing wrong with ideas, everybody is free. These days, the U.S. president and top officials shamelessly stand around to officially recognize the rights of homosexuals. They say that is a wish. Well, if that is true, what crime is there in having a deviant, wrong, and incorrect belief? Why did they go and destroy them and burn them?

I say we do not defend anyone. We do not know what type of people those who were killed were. We want it clarified to ourselves, our people—to whom it is, thank God, clear—that even those who claim to defend human rights are not telling the truth. Particularly, those in our society and all the people of the world should know that they are lying.

Those who are so indifferent to human rights, if they criticize another country saying that they are violating human rights a sensible person should look and see what their aim is, what lies behind their remarks. It is obvious what it is. They do not want an Islamic Republic, whose growth and concept mean that Muslims all over the world could set up similar ones to exist. They are afraid of that.

They want the Islamic Republic destroyed. They want it to be unsuccessful. They want its aim thwarted. They want it to have big problems. Now they see, thank God, with the efforts of the people, the government, and the officials, that the country is moving toward construction and development; that the people have, thank God, preserved their solidarity; that the country's global reputation is on the rise every day; that it is powerful, proud, and independent; and that it does not pay lip service to anybody or heed the wishes of any power. They are upset to see such a system, with its presence, with its existence, encouraging Muslim nations to wake up and think about Islam and themselves.

The first thing they are trying to prevent is the awakening of the people. They, therefore, bring pressure to bear on the Islamic Republic.

Of course, their pressures have no effect. If the pressures exerted by America and the likes of America against the Islamic Republic were to have the effects that they hoped for, then the Islamic Republic would not, thanks to the grace of God and the protection of the Imam of the age, progress in the way it has. The existence of this nation, the uprising of the Islamic Republic, and the glory of the Islamic Republic are the greatest and clearest reasons demonstrating that the vindictiveness of the enemies are not effective.

Tough luck to them! Muslims have been awakened everywhere in the world, more or less, nations have been awakened. They appreciate Islam. Despite all the pressures they inflict on Muslims, Islamic power and spirit are growing and increasing.

They have resumed the so-called peace talks so that they can put down the uprising of the Muslims of Palestine, because they have not been able to put it down yet and still can't. They have called this peace. Is this peace or oppression?

Our opposition to these negotiations being carried out over meek Palestine is not because we oppose peace. We are in favor of peace, and advocate it. We advocate peace and, beyond peace we advocate fraternity between the world's Muslims and all human beings. We favor fraternity. We do not oppose peace, but the talks currently in progress in America are not talks about peace; they are about oppression. They want to endorse oppression, to legalize and formalize this oppression. Of course we are opposed.

All the young brave men of the world should be opposed to it; all Muslims should be opposed to it. They have taken away the Palestinians' home from them and have replaced them with a bunch of usurpers. They have supported them and crushed the homeowners most tragically. Now, in an effort to silence the latters' voices and take away fully from them their claim to their own homes and possessions, the Arab and Israeli Governments are sitting and negotiating.

Does anyone have the right to sign anything on behalf of the Palestinian nation? Does anyone have the right to sell someone else's house to a usurper? We hope that these talks will not end up with a signed agreement and, if there is an agreement carrying the signatures of those Arab governments who were present, those signatures will not be considered as valid by the people of Palestine, by the Muslims of the world, and by us.

America is making a mistake. By gathering the Arab governments around such a shameful negotiating table, it is exposing its supporters—that is, those very governments who have gathered there—to the wrath of their people. Do they think that the people in the Arab countries will consent to the sale of the Palestinians' home to others? The gap between those leaders and their nations will widen even further if, God forbid, they reach an agreement. It will enrage their nations even further. It will further enrage the Egyptian nation. That wretched Egyptian [Mubarak] goes to America, cap in hand, protesting against Iran to that other wretched soul, who is even more fed up with Iran and has his own complaints. Why do you complain about Iran, you fool? Instead, complain about Islam, complain about your Muslim nation.

If that man wants to complain about anybody, he should complain about the Egyptian nation. The Egyptian nation is a Muslim nation. The Egyptian nation has a long record of Islam. The Egyptian nation has achieved great honors on the path of original Islamic thinking and Islamic struggles. That nation is a zealous nation. Of course, that nation does not tolerate the treachery of its leaders; it comes into conflict with them.

What has the Egyptian people's conflict to do with us? We are happy wherever we see Muslim awakening. We are happy whenever Muslims raise their fists. We are sad and feel responsible wherever Muslims are beaten up. But we are not the type who would intervene to make the Egyptian nation aware of their obligations; they themselves are aware of their obligations. They themselves are aware of what they should do. The Egyptian nation has understood well. The Egyptian youths have understood well that they have risen against a government that has betrayed Islamic aspirations, Palestinian aspirations, and the destiny of Islamic countries. That has nothing to do with us.

Their mistake lies in their failure to comprehend the power of Islam and the impact of Islam. Here, I must say: Look at what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina today.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is really a picture that will last. The treason and tragedy-creating of the powers who ostensibly sympathize with the people of Bosnia today—such as the Americans and some Europeans—will remain in history. [passage omitted]

The people of Bosnia have been under pressure for more than a year. The West says: We sympathize, we will send provisions, we will impose economic sanctions on the Serbs. All that is empty talk and false claims. It is behaving and speaking hypocritically. If they were telling the truth and really felt sorry for the Muslims, they would send arms consignments to those Muslims. Those Muslims do not need anybody's bread or food. They have no need for UN food convoys. They do not need false expressions of sympathy from all and sundry. If they had weapons they could defend themselves. You see what a tragedy America and certain European countries are causing in support of the Serbian and Croat butchers and oppressors. [passage omitted]

President Warns Against 'Divisive Issues'

LD2804161493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Great Abrahimite Hajj Congress for 1372 [solar year commencing 21 March 1993] opened with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening at the pure shrine of the the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him.

The president described the hajj rites, following the Islamic revolution, as an example of Islamic and Koranic hajj of the Iranian nation and considered it a source of honor and grandeur for Islam. Stating that the most important pillar of our objectives in the journey to the Holy House of God is the making of the self and achieving spirituality for worldly life and prosperity in the after- life, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: God has brought about this opportunity for children of man to avail themselves of his divine guidance and grace.

Referring to the invaluable inheritance left by the founder of Abrahamite hajj [Ayatollah Khomeyni] at the disposal of the Islamic and revolutionary community, the president said: The close spiritual ties between Muslims and the attention paid by millions of God-seeking human beings to one axis create a suitable ground for Muslims to unify their thoughts and path and look at problems of the world of Islam through the window of the Koran and religion instead of the narrow windows of race, geography, and selfishness for the path to be cleared and for guidance.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: In Abrahamite hajj the great pains of the world of Islam—such as Palestine, Bosnia- Herzegovina, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Somalia and Karabakh—are to be discussed and—beside the House of God and center of spirituality and divine inspiration—the Islamic nation [ummah] must reach its divine unity, away from hatred and enmity.

The president added: Raising divisive issues is a disaster for the Islamic community and is an obstacle in the way of reaping benefit from this sacred journey. I recommend you, the ambassadors of the Islamic revolution in the huge Islamic community, to take care that divisive issues, which can have no effect, should not be raised. Of course we are not against rational discourse between Islamic denominations [feraq], but if this takes on the form of sectarian prejudice and obstinacy it will be poison.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked: Today we are faced with infidels [kofr] and the world of arrogance and we should not be a threat to each other and weaken one another for the sake of differences of taste. The infidels of the world have drawn sword against pure Islam in the name of fundamentalism [as heard] and the enemies seek to make use of division [among Muslims]. Therefore the world of Islam must resolve its own problems through alliance and unity of thought.

President Addresses IPO Officials

LD2704125093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpt] As you were informed earlier in this news bulletin, officials in charge of the Islamic Propaganda Organization [IPO] offices from all over the country met with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. In the course of this meeting, the head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council [Rafsanjani], in remarks referring to the fact that Islam is the only path leading to the salvation of mankind today, said: Islam is the richest source of knowledge and guidance for human beings, and it is endowed with the richest content.

Stressing the importance of persuasion in Islamic propaganda, the president said: No doubt we owe the survival and expansion of Islam to its power of persuasion. The method of discussion and debate with reasoning has always existed in Islam's 1400-year history.

The president went on: Although, in some instances, it is necessary to resort to force, pressure, and punishment to implement Islamic instructions, the main emphasis is placed on guidance and persuasion.

Referring to the growing trend of returning to Islam in those countries that have been released from the years of pressure under Marxist atheism, the president said: By understanding the meaning of martyrdom, the Bosnian Muslims in the Balkan Peninsula are defending their existence, and this understanding came from the roots of persuasion among them.

While stressing the need for application of modern tools of propaganda by the clergy, the president said: Although the traditional method of teaching propaganda in the seminaries is still an effective and successful method in society and should remain as an alternative, application of modern propaganda tools in society is also quite important.

President Rafsanjani also stressed the importance and lasting effects of indirect propaganda methods, such as story writing, plays, theaters, movies, hymns and revolutionary songs, and called upon the clergymen to resort to such methods more than ever before in order to guide various strata of society and particularly the youths.

The president pointed to the heavy responsibility faced by the clergy in their task of running the affairs of the country. He said: Consideration regarding the material sides of people's lives cannot be separated from the cultural and religious sides of their lives, and the clergy has to respond, nowadays, to all the problems of the people. So, clergymen have to increase their knowledge about contemporary issues and problems concerning the country and the world, and they should be adequately informed about the policies and programs of the system.

The president considered that Islam is a complete and rich school of thought that can satisfy all the natural needs of societies and added: If we practice Islam's edicts in their purity and simplicity, then every human scholar and thinker will realize Islam's justness and genuineness.

The president noted that the country's officials must endeavor to fundamentally solve economic, educational, and technical problems. He said that conditions should be created so that all individuals in society—both urban and rural—should benefit equally from the treasury and the country's national resources. He said that the existing gap between the urban and rural regions' use of the country's resources should be closed. The realization of this objective is difficult and will take a long time, and it is in this direction that the government and officials in charge have invested their efforts with the programs they have drawn up. As the person responsible for the executive affairs of the country, I am very optimistic about the future of this task.

President Rafsanjani added: We shall benefit from the experiences gained from the first plan to carry out the second economic, social, and cultural expansion plan. By

having the good people and clergy together with immense resources, we shall have a model Islamic country.

The president referred to the diabolical deeds of the enemies of the Islamic revolution, including the imposition of the eight-year war on Iran. He said: All these obstacles were aimed at keeping us weak, and we were placed under a lot of pressure from abroad during the length of the revolution because the enemies do not want the Islamic Republic to be successful. We have shown that through greater effort and endeavor, however, we will overcome these diabolical deeds.

Before the remarks delivered by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Hojjat ol- Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-Eraqi, chief of the IPO, briefed the president about the activities of that organization. He said: Bearing in mind the threats posed by the western onslaught that is directed at the youth, the organization's deputy for cultural affairs is using the funds allocated by Note 55 to the IPO to prepare extensive programs for young people. He pointed out that last year, the organization dispatched over 38,000 clerical propagators to villages, government departments, institutions, schools, factories, mosques, military, and law enforcement centers.

He said: These propagators staged 538,000 meetings. Over 653,000 were taught to read the Koran—531,000 of whom were men and 130,000 were women. Five hundred plays were performed all over the country along with the screening of over 4,000 long and short films. These were some of the activities of this organization in the past year. He said that presently, the scripts of 35,000 cinematic films have been approved and filming of two films has started. He also said that many books have been published, and the Amir Kabir publishing Institute sold 1 billion rials worth of titles, last year [ending 20 March 1993]. He thanked the president for his efforts to raise the country's cultural standards. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Warns Against 'Cultural Onslaught'

LD2804162693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, at a meeting with the head and officials of bureaus of the Islamic Publicity Organization from all over the country, referred to the extensive attacks by the enemies of God's religion on Islamic values, which are carried out with the most advanced propaganda tools. Addressing the officials and staff of our country's propaganda machinery he said: The committed publicists, artists, and writers should explain complicated issues clearly and publish them. Referring to the cultural onslaught by the arrogant world, via satellites, he said: The arrogant world could overcome the thoughts of the Islamic peoples this way only if the people become divorced from Islam's pure beliefs; that cannot be easily accomplished. For they have utilized all their propaganda facilities against Islamic Iran is the past, but because of the people's Islamic beliefs it was not effective.

He added: We must strive so that these beliefs are fortified in accordance with the society's real needs. This important task should be placed at the top of the priority list of the Islamic Publicity Organization. [passage omitted]

* SALAM Accused of Being Antirevolutionary

93LA0025A London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] KEYHAN newspaper in Tehran has once again started making cases such as it has not done for some time and in two separate articles have suggested that SALAM newspaper and ADINEH magazine are antirevolutionary, outside the line of "Imam" Khomeyni, and tied to the national and intellectual currents.

KEYHAN writes: The BBC, Israeli, and Voice of America radios have praised SALAM newspaper. And Ayatollah Khomeyni warned to doubt anyone who is praised by the United States and Israel. But in our opinion, SALAM newspaper has generated doubt about the line of the Imam.

KEYHAN writes: SALAM newspaper has analyzed that the escalation of pressure by the United States on Iran is the result of the Islamic Republic retreating from its revolutionary positions, and for this reason, in the past 14 years Western pressure on Iran has never been as strong as it is now.

KEYHAN, which published this article in a derisive manner, added: SALAM newspaper even doubts the opinion of the Imam. KEYHAN then discusses the relationship between SALAM and the Freedom Movement and points out that what the Freedom Movement published in the past in MIZAN it now publishes in SALAM.

KEYHAN adds: Imam Khomeyni considered the Freedom Movement, the National Front, and the person of Dr. Mosaddeq as traitors, but SALAM has enumerated the services of Dr. Mosaddeq. In regards to ADINEH magazine, as well, because the art critic of the publication has praised the film, "From Karkheh to Rayen," by Ebrahim Hatamikia, KEYHAN has become angry and writes: ADINEH magazine belongs to the Western-inclined intellectual current that is hostile to Islamic thought and has a long history of insulting the values and beliefs of the revolution. This magazine, in an analysis of the Fajr film festival this year, has praised the film "From Karkheh to Rayen" and pointed out that this film signals the appearance of a capable film maker.

"From Karkheh to Rayen" has a strong and charming expression and without incredible exaggeration and weak characterization analyzes the relationship and ability of individuals in facing problems and hardship. A Basiji, who in the homeland would be happy merely with

respect and cannot find it, in the West also hesitates between becoming a refugee and returning.

KEYHAN also considers the two magazines, FILM and KIAN, to be affiliated with the Iranian intellectual movement and criticizes them for praising "From Karkheh to Rayen."

KEYHAN adds: "From Karkheh to Rayen" is not a film in terms of direction, with Basij and self-sacrificers thinking, and, like the film, "The Wedding of the Good," is trying to inculcate a sort of despair and disappointment among the self-sacrificing forces in society and promoting establishing friendship between our society and the West.

* SALAM Attacked for Eulogizing Mosadeq

93LA0029H London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] In the last days of the solar year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993], the newspaper SALAM, believed by some to be the most readable newspaper being published in Iran today, committed a heresy that astonished everyone: on the occasion of 29 Esfand [19 Mar], Oil Nationalization Day, it published a report in two issues in which the truth about Dr. Mosadeq as the unquestionable inventor and founder of the oil industry was summarized properly.

After the publication of this readable item, which was written without any agenda, people called SALAM and while offering thanks noted that the Islamic Republic Postal Company finally put aside its "narrow-mindedness" and on the occasion of 29 Esfand, Oil Nationalization Day, issued a commemorative stamp.

However, not all the reactions to the report were favorable. The sensationalist KEYHAN Institute and its imitators such as the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI were especially upset, wanting to know why the newspaper SALAM published a report on the nationalization of oil in which it praised a person (meaning Mosadeq) whom the Imam had called a "traitor."

The truth however is that even Khomeyni, despite the grudge he had against Mosadeq as the leader of Iranian nationalism, never used the word "traitor" to refer to him. In the year 1358 [21 Mar 1979-20 Mar 1980], however, after a gathering of tens of thousands of people, which was held in Ahmadabad to observe the anniversary of Dr. Mosadeq's death, he simply said: They went to demonstrate for a handful of bones to accomplish what?

Khomeyni took that same opportunity to implicitly praise the 28 Mordad [19 Aug] incident, which led to the overthrow of Mosadeq's government. Of course it is worth saying that Ayatollah Kashani, along with a large group of people from Qom Seminary, including someone who was known in those days only as Haj Aqa Ruhollah and later became the leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran, turned out for the events of 28 Mordad.

Yes, the publication of the report on the nationalization of the oil industry in the newspaper SALAM was also considered a kind of thumbing of the nose at Khomeyni, who not only said those things about Mosadeq, but also clearly stated that "nationalism contradicts Islam."

* Rivalry on Possible Merging of Ministries

93LA0025E London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] The plan to combine the three ministries of Heavy Industries, Industries, and Mines and Metals had caused intense rivalry between the three ministers over who should be the "super minister" of the single ministry that would probably be called the "Ministry of Industries and Mines." This rivalry, of course, less severely, had started between the ministers of education and sciences and higher education as well. But with the approach of the presidential election, 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani has recommended to the rivals, or according to some informed circles to the "bloody enemies," to avoid any sort of effort to eliminate one another until the elections, because everyone might be eliminated.

Nevertheless, informed sources in Iran say that at the present Nezhad-Hoseynian, the present minister of heavy industries, has a better chance than all the rivals "to become the super minister," because, since he is a relative of Haji Tarkhani, the famous capitalist of the bazaar, who had a great share in the Islamic revolution and now enjoys great influence in the bazaar, not only will he be an important support for the government of Rafsanjani but, due to the influence of the bazaar in the Majles, he will have a greater chance of gaining a vote of confidence in the Majles. Because of this support in the bazaar, Nezhad-Hoseynian expresses his opinion about the Iranian economy and the necessity of leaving the hand of the private sector free more frankly than others.

Some circles say that Nezhad-Hoseynian is also related to the well-known "Abdollah Sharr-e Khar," whose specialization was collecting hot checks and promissory notes.

* MOK Denies Ties to Babak-e Khorramdin

93LA0025B London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] There is no organization called "Babak Khorramdin," and only elements that the People's Mojahedin Organization refers to as 'opportunists,' such as Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, have spread its name." The official People's Mojahedin Office in Washington, DC, in an "explanatory communique," wrote that starting six months ago the above-mentioned "vague" organization began to issue announcements, when the Mojahedin operations in the country had reached new heights. The above-mentioned communique contains no examples of the "new heights," but considers some operations for which "Babak Khorramdin" claims responsibility, directly or indirectly, as not factual.

Nevertheless, some signs indicate the occurrence of violent actions in the country in which the presence of the Mojahedin is not sensed. The murder of the deputy minister of agriculture on the Tabriz-Mianeh road and also the recent explosion in which 'Abdollah Nuri, the minister of interior, and according to one report, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, were injured are of this kind.

Some time ago, the international media pointed out that for the first time a group has engaged in armed operations against the regime whose strong nationalist tendencies distinguish it from the People's Mojahedin, who have so far had a monopoly on armed operations against the regime.

The famous Italian newspaper called [KURIER DELA-SARA ?], in its 18 March issue, quoting the "Babak Khorramdin" Organization, claimed that the perpetrators of the assassination of Mohammad Hoseyn Naqdi, the representative of the People's Mojahedin in Rome, was carried out by a Lebanese and a Palestinian who are both members of a terrorist organization called "Zolfaqar-2." The People's Mojahedin believe that this information has foundation in fact and is aimed mostly at "disinformation and diverting the investigations of the Italian police."

* Montazeri's Followers Accused of Amassing Weapons

93LA0029C London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The investigation of Ayatollah Hoseyn'ali Montazeri's office was carried out as ordered by the Special Clerical Court, and since Engineer Ahmad Montazeri, the son of Ayatollah Montazeri, along with the other members of that office, spared no effort to obstruct this investigation, the officials had no choice but to resort to force.

In an interview with the publication KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian of the Special Clerical Court discussed this matter and added: In addition to the Ayatollah Montazeri's office, we investigated the homes of Hadi Hashemi, his son-in-law, and Sa'id Montazeri, his son. Rahimian's position on the Special Clerical Court has not been confirmed, nor is it known to which municipality's special court he will be assigned.

He gave the following as the reason for the investigations: A member of Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi's gang (he didn't give the name of this "member") has been sought for some time, and after that we ran into a network in Tehran. The members of this network were writing and distributing insulting statements and leaflets concerning His Holiness the Imam and they were also collecting weapons. These people were sought and five or six individuals were arrested (he did not mention any names of those arrested). Under interrogation they admitted that these steps were taken in coordination with the house of Mr. Montazeri and Seyyed Hadi Hashemi, and that the center for preparing and distributing these statements was the home of Seyyed Hadi Hashemi and several other homes. On this basis the order to search these houses was issued. After searching five pick-up trucks these kinds of statements insulting His Holiness the Imam along with some other documents were found, which will be made public soon.

Since the day of the assault on the house and office of Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom late in the month of Bahman [21 Jan-19 Feb], this is the first time that someone from the Special Clerical Court has mentioned a network whose members have "admitted" that they distributed statements insulting to Khomeyni and "collected arms" with the "cooperation" of the house of Mr. Montazeri.

* Commentary on Attack on Montazeri's Home

93LA0029I London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] It has been more than a month since the organized attack by the regime's mercenaries on Ayatollah Montazeri's home. The reports published by the sensationalist KEYHAN Institute (published in Tehran) are illustrations of a string of lies, each one bigger than the last in order to cover up the previous ones. The latest lie is that there was absolutely no attack on his house, that it was merely a simple investigation ordered by the Special Clerical Court.

Since in such cases there is never anyone to be found who can testify to the lies, this time the sensationalist KEYHAN Institute has not had any problems: A creature named Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseynian from the Special Clerical Court says that the order to search Ayatollah Montazeri's office was issued by a "competent judicial official." The Special Clerical Court of which city? It is not known.

It also says that Montazeri's house was not searched at all, and that searches were done only at the homes of Hadi Hashemi, the wife of Montazeri's daughter, Sa'id Montazeri, his son, and "one or two other houses," which members of Ayatollah Montazeri's office used as "my house."

Thus, at least according to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseynian, whose account was also published by KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, it was a plot in the making that centered once again on the status and position of Ayatollah Khomeyni's former successor, because he said "for some time" (since when is not clear) a member of Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi's gang had been sought, after which "we encountered a network in Tehran."

After their arrest the members of this network admitted that they were "busy" preparing and distributing statements and leaflets insulting to the "Imam." To make the accusation more inaccurate, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseynian adds that they "were also collecting weapons," and that all these things were being done "in collaboration with Mr Montazeri's house and Seyyed Hadi Hashemi, and that the center for preparing and distributing these statements was also the

home of Seyyed Hadi Hashemi and several other houses." He also promised that "in the near future" he would publish more information about this.

Thus in reality the real defendant in this plot whose discovery they have just reported is Hadi Hashemi, the brother of Mehdi Hashemi, who was condemned to death a few years go, not Ayatollah Montazeri. Then why haven't the "competent" judicial officials not yet published any reports on this? Why haven't they issued an order to arrest Hadi Hashemi? Why haven't they officially told him about the charges against him? These are all questions that those talking about a plot must hear and answer.

If the Special Clerical Court issued a verdict, why didn't people at Qom Seminary such as Ayatollah Sane'i, Ayatollah Mo'men, and Ayatollah Mohaqeq-Damad, all insiders in the Islamic regime, express regret at this behavior at their class meetings in Qom? Why was this verdict issued on Friday—the official day off—and after an inflammatory speech, in which Ayatollah Meshkini spoke against Ayatollah Montazeri at the Qom Friday prayer service?

The newspaper KEYHAN and its subsidiary KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, as well as the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, whose concession holder is still Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, are the press instigators of this uproar. However, they also have not yet mentioned the "plot" of which Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseynian spoke. They only said that Ayatollah Montazeri refused to use the term "the late Imam" when he discussed political matters at the end of a class.

So much for those things. Yet while Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, has said and emphasized more than once that in Iran today they do not prosecute anyone for having a political idea, there is a theologian who teaches at the seminary, was the leader's successor for years, and who was referred to many times by those same newspapers as "Grand Ayatollah" and "the esteemed theologian," who not only does not have the right to get involved in political affairs, but also does not have the right to express a political opinion.

Where has the "splendid revolution" gotten to?

Deputy: Maritime Law No Threat to Neighbors

LD2504134593 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—A Majles deputy said Sunday the Law on the Sea Zones of the Islamic Republic of Iran will create no problem for the neghboring countries but on the contrary will gurantee stability in the Persian Gulf.

"The approval of the Law on the Sea Zones of the Islamic republic in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman is by no means a political move but is fully in agreement with legal facts," Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, member of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee told IRNA.

He said wrong interpretations of the law by certain people over the past few days indicated that they have either failed to understand the nature of the legislation or they have understood it but are sensitive to it from political point of view.

According to the 1st Article of the law passed by the Majles last Tuesday, Iran, in addition to its boundaries and internal waters and its islands in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman, practices sovereignty over a region adjacent to the base line which is called territorial sea.

The law also stipulate that such sovereignty include space over the territorial sea as well as its bed and subsoil and that the islands owned by Iran, whether be within or outside the territorial sea, have their own territorial seas.

Raja'i Khorasani said what has been passed by the Majles is not something new but is the compilation and legalization of a set of regulations and approvals of the government which had been in force in the past.

Contrary to views expressed recently by certain people that the law has been approved following the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, the Foreign Minsitry for a long time was working to legalize the exisiting regulations concerning Iran's rights in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, he said.

"Those who think that the passage of the law was associated with the issue of the three Iranian islands and that it may entail certain consequences, are fully mistaken," the Majles deputy pointed out.

Raja'i Khorasani, the former Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, made it clear that the legislation had not been compiled or approved overnight and that it would entail no problem for Iran's neighbors.

On the effects of the law on ships sailing through the Strait of Hormuz and off the three Iranian islands, he said "our rights in those regions were observed in the past and at present the same rights have been legally compiled in a law."

The law's 4th Article stipulates that in cases the territorial sea of Iran and those of opposite and adjacent states intermingle, unless an agreement is reached between the parties involved, the territorial seas are decided by the median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the base line.

He further added that the law bill on the sea zones of the Islamic republic in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman was submitted to the Majles by the government on January 20, 1991.

Majles first discussed the bill on September 29, 1992 and again on May 21, 1993. Rajae'i Khorasani made it clear

that the bill was forwarded to the Majles 27 months ago and has been in its agenda since then and that there is nothing new to it.

Iranian Troops Reported '5 Km Inside' Iraq

NC2904090593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In the past few days, Islamic Republic of Iran regime forces reportedly attacked the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan with artillery fire, crossed Marivan, and continued their aggression into Iraqi territory.

Regime infantry forces have reportedly infiltrated 5 km inside Iraqi territory, into Khamyava, and have occupied the villages of Kel, Koteh niru, Gena va Suta, and Doklan in Iraqi Kurdistan.

While we again condemn the aggressive plots of the clerical regime and its occupation of part of Iraqi territory, we declare that if the advance of the clerical forces into Iraqi Kurdistan is not halted, the regime could implement its plan to usurp the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan.

* Commentary on Ideological War With Turkey

93LA0025D London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 93 pp 6, 11

[Commentary by Mohammad Orosi]

[Text] The fire of political and ideological conflicts between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey is becoming more heated every day, and due to expansive economic treaties, skepticism and hostile rivalry are replacing 50 years of cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

The Islamic government officials of Iran have revived the spirit of Shah Esma'il and the Qezelbash warriors and entertain the notion of exporting their religious-political views and in so doing to overthrow the Western-inclined regime of Ankara and remove the basis of American influence in the region and spread revolutionary Islam in the newly independent former Soviet republics.

For the rulers of the Islamic government, part of this policy is for domestic consumption, by which they are trying to guarantee the survival of their own regime. The Turkish political regime as a model for Iranians would mean the end of their rule, and at the same time they are aware of the weakness of the secular regime of Turkey to fight Islam. The Turks, despite the economic growth and 70 years of efforts to modernize, live in a relatively backward country, and the place Turkey holds today does not conform to the glorious picture that they have of their past.

Poverty and a low standard of living, dependence on the West and the United States, a $5 billion foreign debt, 5 billion unemployed people, the employment of millions of Turks at low-paying jobs in Germany and Europe, a watered-down and weak democracy, Turkish and Kurdish tribal conflicts, social corruption, and the difference in wealth and social polarization, the release of the Iranian-Islamic-Turkish world from the Soviet prison, and other unknown factors once again give much power to the Islamicization of the Turkish society and make the Turkish Muslims fight and the Islamic government of Iran more courageous in pursuing their policies.

Let it not be forgotten that in accepting Islam the Turks gained an empire and the Iranians lost a monarchy.

Today, among the deprived people in the society, those who are politically disappointed, the migrant workers from villages, and students, Islam has gained a strong resonance in a way that the Islamic Welfare Party of Najmoddin Arbagan, who had gained only 7 percent of the votes in the 1987 elections, in the recent elections for the City Hall of Istanbul, won over all its rivals. The building of mosques and the spread of the Islamic cover are significant. Schools and universities have become centers for Islamic propaganda and propagation, and Marxists who have recently turned Muslim, such as Esmat Ozal and Ali Bulak, have turned to symbols of revolutionary Islam. Criticism and faultfinding with the laic, Ataturk regime has escalated and criticism is becoming harsher every day.

Fahmi Kuru, the editor of the Islamic newspaper ZAMAN, speaks of the right to live a nonlaic, Islamic life and questions secularism and the separation of religion from government. Some others speak of removing the Ataturk memorial and believe that Turkey is governed from a graveyard and that it is the corpse of Ataturk that governs them.

Hundreds of thousands of people have demanded that the Topkapi Museum be changed to the Ayat Sofia Mosque and have linked this issue to the issue of fighting laicism.

Opinion polls at the Administrative Sciences College of Turkey indicate a large percentage of supporters of an Islamic government and negation of the nonreligious regime. They have said that Islam is not a religion of Saturday and Sunday, but a religion for all seven days of the week.

The movement is a combination of the Nurju, Naqshbandi, and Bul Imanji sects. The congress of the 2-million-large sect of Nurju from 1980 has found renewed life and has again placed making the Turkish society religious over Islamicizing the government and at the present avoids political conflict with the government. But the trend of the affairs indicate future changes by other Turkish rulers after passing through the long anti-Islam Kamalism period to a sort of faint laicism and support of Islam to disarm the religious rivals.

Since 1982, the teaching of the Koran has become mandatory in public schools, and Turkey has become a member of the Islamic countries.

Article 163 of the penal code, which condemned propagation against laicism, was replaced with Article 198, which calls for punishment for insults against Islam of six months in jail.

There is also the oil-Islamic movement. Saudi dollars fill the pockets of the journalists, who have no interest in truth, to propagate Wahabism.

For this reason, the vulnerability of Turkey with regard to Islam has given the religious rulers of Iran reason to use Islam as a weapon to counter the influence of Turkey in the Caucasian transoceanic countries and prevent the likelihood of their provocation in Iranian Azarbaijan.

The Main Weapon

The main weapon of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic is ideology and at times to drag any sort of difference to the arena of ideology and confrontation of two philosophies. On the other hand, as the Ottoman sultans imagined Shiite Iran as a wall of separation between themselves and the Sunnis of the transoceanic countries and Afghanistan, Turkish nationalism also, despite its differences with religious guardianship, considers Iran and Armenia the factor of separation between the Turkish people of Caucasia and the transoceanic countries and has not given up its greed in regards to Iranian Azarbaijan.

The Turks speak of the new age of the uprising of the Turks and despite the apparent opposition to ultranationalistic pan-Turkism, suffer from that disease from head to toe, and only a small percentage have remained immune.

The Turkish Government has turned opposition to the regime of religious guardianship into a tool of influence in the region, and also a tool to put pressure on the United States, Israel and the Western world, asking for the cost of its policy of looking to the West, which is headed by opposition to Iran, from the West.

The United States also insists on washing its hands of Kamalism, that without attention to the East wants relations with the West and Europe and calls on the Turks to change their policy.

JOMHURIYYAT newspaper, on 26 February 1990, quoting an American official, Graham Fuller, wrote: "Ataturk during his time was right, in order to fight pan-Islamism and pan-Turkism, to choose those policies that avoided the West. Now the situation has changed. You cannot act in the atmosphere of the 1920's and 1930's. Fifty million Soviet Muslims are moving toward freedom. Turkey can become a source of intellectual inspiration and an economic and political model for them and play a great role." Greek sources speak of employing dozens of Turkish scholars and Turkish specialists in the U.S. State Department and research institutions and consider their duty to study the Turkish tribes and pan-Turkism in order to create an obstacle against the Islamic Republic and turn the changes in the newly independent former Soviet republics to their own interests. Israel also sees the extremist Turkish nationalism against Iranians and Arabs and intends to take advantage of it.

The dream of military conflict between Turkey and Iran, like the Iran-Iraq war, is a tempting sweet wish, of which the real winner would be Israel.

On the other hand, historical experience has indicted a sort of national opportunism among Turkish government rulers. As they have shown in the last five centuries, during the time of Iranian strength, they have claimed to be friends, and during its weakness they have turned into ill wishers and enemies. Historical evidence also shows this. Among them, in the battle over the nationalization of oil, Turkey took the side of Britain and accused Iran of violating the rights of the British.

In the Iran-Iraq war, by opposing the war on the surface, it profited from both countries, sold its goods, and viewed the war as a gain for themselves.

And today, under the conditions of the political and economic isolation of Iran and the problems due to the adventurism of the Islamic government rulers of Iran, in the name of defending freedom and a secular regime, the Turks are trying to advance their ultranationalistic and pan-Turkish goals and will not pass up any opportunity to strike blows against Iran and infiltrate Azarbaijan.

The occupation of part of Iranian Azarbaijan in a rapid attack is a likelihood, if there is Western support.

According to some reports from Turkey, Turgut Ozal participated in the planning of a large military base and said: "Soon important military events will occur in this region."

The Turks have shown that they are great commanders and serious soldiers, but bad politicians. Iranians also are great idealists and serious revolutionaries, but bad politicians. With such characteristics, ignoring the common points and focussing on the differences is easier than anything else, and any tragic event could happen. Once Shah 'Abbas Safavi had said that he "preferred the soles of the shoes of the Christians to the greatest of Ottoman men."

The advancement of belligerence and hostility between the religious ideology of the Iranian Government and the ultrachauvinism of the Turks can end in a disaster that would make the suffering nations of the region prefer the boots of American and European soldiers to their own leaders. May this never happen.

Pakistan

Sharif Escapes Assassination Attempt in Peshawar

BK2804122593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Peshawar—The ousted Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has narrowly escaped in a firing incident at Khairabad on Tuesday [27 April] afternoon.

As per reports, when former premier crossed the Khairabad bridge, some people opened firing in the air in order to receive the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] central president. The firing was opened by followers and sympathisers of Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Jubilation as per the Pushtoon tradition.

In the meantime, some people stated to be armed with Kalashnikovs, opened firing on Mian Nawaz Sharif. However, the fire missed the target. The miscreants later made their good escape. However, one person was arrested with a pistol in his possession.

The high-ups of Frontier Police as well as personnel of other secret agencies were reluctant to say anything about the incident. Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif remained for sometime on the site and later left for Peshawar.

Earlier, on his first visit to the NWFP [North West Frontier Province] after dissolution of the National Assembly, the former Prime Minister and PML (N) [Nawaz] President Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was accorded warm welcome on entrance to the province at Khairabad on Tuesday afternoon.

The visit, the first over after the dissolution of National Assembly being considered a show of power against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and NWFP, CM [Chief Minister] Mir Afzal Khan, was jointly arranged by leaders and stalwarts of Awami National Party [ANP] and Pakistan Muslim League. Lakhs of people affliated with both the political forces as well as from other spheres of life, attended the procession of the dismissed prime minister.

Mian Nawaz Sharif in a procession left Islamabad on Tuesday morning, arrived at Khairabad bridge at 5.30 p.m. In the meantime, due to heavy rush of vehicles, traffic on both sides of the road in centre of Khariabad bridge was blocked for more than one hour. Amidst chanting slogans against dissolution of the National Assembly, former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif address the people for some time.

Later, the former Prime Minister including top leaders of both the parties from Frontier Province left Khairabad bridge for Peshawar in the evening. However, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was still on his way to Peshawar Naushahra and was likely to arrive in the provincial capital.

On arrival at provincial capital Nawaz Sharif was to be received at general bus stand by traditional Peshawarites.

For listening to the views of Nawaz Sharif in public after dissolution of the assemblies people throughout the provinces assembled in venue of the meeting, Tuesday afternoon. Both the PML and ANP leaders have decorated the stage with big portraits of their leaders and party flags, while poets, particularly students of colleges and universities were delivering sentimental poems against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders and NWFP Chief Minister. They also highlighted importance of democratic process for future of the country and its people.

A number of PML leaders including from federal ministers along with leaders of ANP have reached the venue of the public meeting before arrival of Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif Calls For President's Resignation

BK2804143693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 28 (AFP)—Deposed Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who sacked him, to resign before the masses "force" him out of office.

"The people of Pakistan will not allow one man to play with the destiny of the nation," Sharif told a news conference here.

Currently engaged in a nationwide campaign against the president who dissolved the National Asssembly and sacked the government on April 18, Sharif said "Ishaq Khan should step down and go home."

Sharif attracted large crowds during a 170 kilometer (105 mile) road journey from Rawalpindi to Peshawar Tuesday, capping the trip with a hard-hitting speech against the president at a rally attended by thousands.

"The president has sabotaged the mandate of the people for personal motives and greed," he said, adding that the nation would not forgive him.

Sharif pledged to change the present system so that "no one ever dares to trample upon the aspirations of the people."

He was referring to a constitutional provision that gives the president discretionary powers to dissolve the National Assembly, which Ishaq Khan previously invoked in 1990 to sack Benazir Bhutto's government.

Sharif's plan to annul this provision triggered the bitter tussle with Ishaq Khan which culminated in Sharif's dismissal.

He plans to address rallies throughout the country in the coming days and is mounting a court case against the dissolution.

Ishaq Khan installed Balkh Sher Mazari as caretaker prime minister after sacking Sharif for alleged corruption and mismanagement. The president also promised fresh national elections on July 14.

Corp Commanders Hold Emergency Meeting 29 Apr

BK2804113293 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 27—An emergency meeting of the Corps Commanders is being held in Rawalpindi on April 29 to take stock of the prevailing internal and external situation especially in reference to the dissolution of the National Assembly, the post- dissolution situation, threats from across the border, and deliberate efforts by some political quarters to damage national economy, top military sources confirmed to THE MUSLIM on Tuesday night.

Political quarters are attaching great significance to the one- day conference of the top military brass as it is being held only three weeks after the last conference of the Corps Commanders.

The Corps Commanders conference will have two sessions which will be attended by other senior-most officials of GHQ [General Headquarters]

Though there is no official agenda of the conference it is believed that matters relating to internal and external security will be discussed threadbare. The commanders will have exchange of views on the fast-changing political scenario in the light of the field reports from their respective areas.

A top military source when asked about the agenda said the political agenda of the conference would be within the parameters of the COAS's [chief of Army Staff] address to troops in Azad Kashmir on Sunday morning.

In his address, the COAS had emphasised complete neutrality of the army in the current political situation. His second important point was that the crisis had been dealt with within the confines of the Constitution. The third important point was that elections would be held within the stipulated period of 90 days.

Sources close to GHQ maintained that the discussions in the conference are expected to revolve around the three points coupled with the rapid changes taking place in the capital.

Sources said in the context of external security, signals emanating from across the border, which have direct linkages with the current political instability in the country, will be thoroughly analysed.

The participants of the conference are expected to discuss thread-bare Indian-sponsored diplomatic offensive across the world to get Pakistan declared as a terrorist state and its implications in the context of Pakistan's security problems and economic development.

A reponsible source said what worries GHQ most, is that the country's external security has direct linkage with the political instability especially in the post-dissolution situation.

He claimed that the GHQ was in receipt of receipts pouring in from political circles in Islamabad about the non-implementation of the understanding that had been reached between two major partners in the interim set-up. The sources in Rawalpindi are concerned that political instability may hit the bottom-line in case the two major partners pull out from the interim government over the failure to honour the commitment made earlier to them.

Sources said PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto is agitated over three points. They are (1) the provincial assemblies have not been dissolved despite the committment made to her (2) appointment of Ch [Chaudhary] Alaf Hussain as the Governor of the Punjab without consulting her, and (3) failure to give the portfolio of Law Ministry to the PPP's nominee Ch Aitzaz Ahsan.

Sources close to GHQ pointed out that the army wants to keep out of politics but the irony of the whole situation is that it cannot remain oblivious to political happening as they have a direct impact on national security. Sources pointed out to the recent statement of the COAS in which he said the army's sole concern throughout had been to safeguard the integrity of the country against undue pressures both from internal and exteranl fronts.

Sources sid GHQ feels that a politically stable government in the office would be able to address effectively the serious threat to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Source said the army's perception is that if Pakistan is declared a terrorist state, it would not only mean economic blockade of Pakistan but it would also leave the country extremely vulnerable to foreign aggression.

The sources feared that in such an eventuality, the countries hostile to Pakistan could make air strikes on Pakistan's soil on flimsy pretext of presence of "terrorists". "They could attack any of our installations without any fear of condemnation", said the sources.

They said that the emergency meeting of the Corps Commanders will view this problem in a broader perspective and give its recommendations to the government.

It is expected the Corps Commanders will discuss any possible army role in the forthcoming general elections. Of late Benazir Bhutto hass been demanding that elections should be conducted by the army.

The army's withdrawal from Sindh may also come up for discussion at the conference.

The sources indicated that after the conclusion of the corps commanders conference, the COAS will call on the President and apprise him of the corps commanders' perceptions on all security related matters.

Bhuttos, Mazari Discuss Situation, Future

BK2804150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The chairperson of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Begum Nusrat Bhutto, and co-chairperson of PPP Ms. Benazir Bhutto were invited by the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, on tea today. The PPP leaders, accompanied by the federal minister for defense production, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, stayed with the prime minister for an hour. They discussed the current political situation in the country and the future course of action of the caretaker national government, especially arrangements for holding free and fair elections on the scheduled date.

Senator Maulana Samiul Haq, along with the delegation of his party, called on the caretaker prime minister today. They remained with the prime minister for some time. Senator Amir Abdullah Khan Rokari also called on the prime minister. During these meetings, matters of national importance and current political situation in the country were discussed. President of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League Barrister Sultan Mahmud also called on Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari at the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad today and discussed with him matters relating to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Wattoo Says Change Through Democratic Means

BK2904031093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo has said that the majority of the ruling party in the Punjab Assembly has brought about a change in the leadership without any pressure or greed and by completely democratic means. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he rejected the allegation that the government of Ghulam Haider Wyne was changed by unfair means.

Khan-Sharif 'Confrontation' Viewed

BK2804145793 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 28 Apr 93 p 3

[Editorial: " A New Tug-of-War"]

[Text] The protracted confrontation and the tug-of-war between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, which led to the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of the Sharif government, does not seem to be ending yet. Its scope is becoming rather wider and it is feared that in the wake of this rivalry and confrontation, the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] may openly come out as an anti-president party. If this situation arises, it will further deepen the political confusion. It is against the backdrop of this unexpected situation that certain political circles have started to express fears about the demise of democracy and the emergence of a third force.

The current situation is that along with the PDA, several other political parties are also demanding the dissolution of the provincial assemblies, but President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is not willing to accept this demand. During his meeting with the members of the Sindh Cabinet and the provincial assembly the other day, he reiterated the assurance that so long as the provincial assemblies are functioning in accordance with the Constitution and the law, they cannot be dissolved, because this is totally in keeping with constitutional requirements. Also, such a decision cannot be made on the basis of the whims and wishes of a single person. He added that strengthening democracy is a collective responsibility and the members should not be misled by any propaganda.

Meanwhile, Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] cochairperson and head of the PDA, has told newsmen that her party and alliance members had resigned from the National Assembly only after the president's promise to dissolve the provincial assemblies, but now certain political circles are hindering the fulfillment of that promise. She described the developments in the Punjab assembly as horse-trading and said that former Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne had two-thirds majority only a night before. She wondered how the same majority turned toward Manzoor Wattoo the next day. She alleged that the members of the assembly were kidnapped by a chartered Pakistan International Airlines plane. This is not fairplay [preceding word in English]. She added that certain people are attempting to break the agreement between the PPP and the Muslim League and wish to come to the fore through trickery. Answering a question about the postponement of the elections, Benazir Bhutto asked why elections could not be held during the Muslim month of Muharram or in summer. If the elections are not held as scheduled, then the action taken against Nawaz Sharif will be considered unjustified. It is not possible for us to cry for the Constitution while in the opposition and ignore it after coming into power. Benazir Bhutto's stand on the timely conduct of elections is totally principled, based on truth and realism, and in consonance with the requirements of the Constitution. She has been constantly insisting that the provincial assemblies should also be dissolved, otherwise the PDA ministers will resign from the caretaker government.

But, the question is: Did President Ghulam Khan make any such promise to the PDA chief? If such a promise was really made, then what is the obstacle in the way of its fulfillment? If a promise was not made, then Benazir Bhutto should not persist in her demand. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's statement that the provincial

assemblies cannot be dissolved on the whims and wishes of one single person indicates that the president had not made any promise while accepting the resignation of the PDA chief, otherwise he would not have termed it as the wish of a single person.

It is not only the PPP that is demanding the dissolution of the provincial assemblies. The PDA and the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] are also making the same demand and they have instructed their ministers in the Federal Cabinet to resign if this demand is not met. The other day, Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari met Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the secretary general of the Jamiat-i-Ulema- i-Islam, and invited him to join the Federal Cabinet. But, Fazlur Rahman also demanded the dissolution of the provincial assemblies—although the president had not made any such promise to him—saying that if that is not done, his party would not join the Federal Cabinet.

This is a very alarming situation. The formation of the Federal Cabinet and the distribution of the ministries among component parties are still incomplete and there is a political vacuum in the country. The situation demands that the president, the prime minister, the leaders of the PDA, the NDA and other political parties should put their heads together, placing interests of the country and the nation above their own personal egoes and prestige, and make decisions without any delay to fill the current political vacuum and to remove the impediments in the running of the affairs of the government. The general elections, according to the president's promise and the Constitution, are still three months away, but, if any new destructive process is started at this juncture, then the country may come under the grip of an anarchy that may seriously jeopardize the national security as well. We should do everything possible to avoid this situation.

Election of Muslim League President Postponed

BK2904113193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Election of the new president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group has been postponed till the 9th of next month. The postponement was decided at a meeting of the General Council of the party in Islamabad today.

The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, who also attended the meeting said the Pakistan Muslim League would take all decisions on vital issues unanimously. He said the party does not believe in (?slogan mongering) and politics of confrontation. The general council adopted a resolution expressing condolences over the death of the party president, Mr. Mohammed Khan Junejo, and paid rich tributes to qualities of his leadership.

Hasan Shah Sworn In as Chief Justice

BK2904084093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah was sworn in as the chief justice of the Supreme Court at a ceremony at Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] in Islamabad this morning. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath to him. The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari; Chairman of Senate Mr. Wasim Sajjad; some federal ministers; the governor of the Punjab, Chaudhary Altaf Hussain; judges of the Supreme Court, and the chief justices of the four high courts were present on the occasion.

Zaki: No Terrorist State Label for Pakistan

BK2804113993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad—Secretary general foreign affairs, Akram Zaki, has said Pakistan and the United States are engaged in a constructive dialogue to remove certain misunderstandings pertaining to country's alleged involvement in terrorist activities.

Talking to a group of journalists here Tuesday, he said that Pakistan would not be declared a terrorist country as it was neither in interest of Pakistan nor the United States. He reiterated that Pakistan was opposed to all form of terrorism whether initiated by an individual, organised group or state power. "However, we have witnessed state terrorism in Bosnia and Kashmir," he added.

Quoting a Non-aligned Movement (NAM) declaration, Akram Zaki said that people struggling against alien control can't be declared terrorist. "Those who are struggling for their right of self- determination and are inspired by great leaders like George Washington and Woodrow Wilson deserve sympathy and political support," he emphasised. He made it clear that Pakistan was not extending any material support to the freedom fighters in Kashmir thus there were no basis to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. Even in the case of bomb blasts in Bombay, he said India tried to implicate Pakistan but falled to present enough evidence.

Secretary General foreign affairs viewed that the international community no longer take Indian charges against Pakistan seriously. "Indian foreign minister, Dinesh Singh, has also contradicted the allegations of the fellow ministers."

However, James Woolsey, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had told a US congressional panel last Wednesday that terrorism remains a serious and largely unpredictable threat. Regarding Pakistan, he had said that, "Sudan and Pakistan, while not yet on the State Department's list of state sponsors—are on the brink. Last January US warned each of these countries

that it could soon be listed." It is worth mentioning that the country will remain on the watch list till June 30 this year.

Regarding crackdown on Arab NGOs [NonGovernment Organizations] operating in Peshawar, Akram Zaki said: "We initiated action against them a year ago when Najibollah regime fell in Kabul. We started taking action and asked them to wind-up as Mojahedin government had been installed in Afghanistan," he added. Some of these NGOs are still engaged in health, education and relief projects and they are being given special permits to continue their work, Akram Zaki revealed. "But those involved in Jehad related pursuits were given reasonable time to wind-up" he added.

'Terrorist' Label Challenged

BK2804115193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial:"Please Do Not Put National Pride on the Line"]

[Text] Hardly a day passes without some American or Indian news source throwing out obviously inspired conjectures about Pakistan being declared a "terrorist state." Quite frankly, we fall to understand what on earth this expression really connotes. It's more than year, may be two years, since this cynical canard has been floating around. For 14 long years the United States fought a war against the Soviet Union. The battlefield was Afghanistan. The base was Pakistan's soll. The government of a servile dictator, originaly planted by the United States itself, was used and abused to help Washington prosecute this war. During the war, shady elements from all over the Muslim world were invited to by the US secret agencies join the fake jehad, which was simply a war waged by the Unite States to dislodge its arch enemy, the Soviet Union, from Afghanistan. The war was not intended to help the Afghan people retrieve their freedom and return to peace with themselves. If that were so, the US would not have deserted the Afghan people, leaving them to stew in the fires left burning by the main protagonist of the Afghan war. The United States conduct in helping Afghan stregglers should be kept in mind when talking of state terror which is loosely being defined as supporting violence in another state.

Now what is Pakistan being accused of apart from bomb blasts in Bombay and Calcutta and some juveniles playing with flights of the Indian airlines in India's own air space? The charge is that Pakistan supports separatist movements in India's Punjab state and the disputed statve of Jammu and Kashmir. What about separatist movements in Nagaland, in Mizoram, in Maghalia, in Imphal, In and around Darjecling, in Tamil Nadu? All these air sponsored by Pakistan?

What about the heartles violence in the killing valleys of the disputed Kashmir state, writhing under the jackboots of 400,000 Indian troops? Why is the State Department's sensitive conscience not disturbed over the contemptuous refusal of New Delhi authorities to let any representative of President Clinton go to Occupled Kashmir and see things at first hand? Nobody expects the United States to say thank you to Pakistan for all those services, at times most damaging to the interests of its own people, rendered by it from the days of the Baghdad Pact to the final stages of the United States war in Afghanistan. The people of Pakistan, as a matter of fact, of most of the Muslim world, know the moral quality of the world politices of the United States and some of its closer allies. But one did expect a certain minimum of courtesy and plain decency.

What Pakistan should do now is to keep silent. As it is, Pakistan's pleas are falling on deaf sars. Why waste your breath? If Washington is bent upon being unfair and ungrateful, and, in addition vindictive and hostile, there is little we in Pakistan can do, May be, Ms benazir would try to go down on her knees, as she is so prone to when in contact with her friends in Washington. She might try that but she must know such kowtowing is essentially demeaning and seldom rowarding.

New State of Eritrea Recognized

BK2904025093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has decided to recognize the newly independent state of Eritrea with immediate effect. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Karachi yesterday said that Pakistan has supported the Eritrean people's just struggle for self- determination and their legitimate national aspirations.

Chinese Delegation Meets Environment Minister

BK2804161293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by Vice Mayor of Beijing Mr. Li Runwu, held meeting with the federal minister for housing, environment and urban affairs, Mr. Anwar Saifullah, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, ways and means to enhance Pakistan-China cooperation in the fields of urban housing and environment protection were discussed.

Sri Lanka

Violence Precedes Opposition Leader's Funeral

BK2804121693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP)—Police beat off mobs who stormed one of their offices here as sporadic violence erupted ahead of the funeral of slain opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali Wednesday, officials said.

Police repulsed demonstrators who entered a building of the police Criminal Investigations Department adjoining the national television station, officials said.

However, it was not immediately clear if police had baton-charged or opened fire to disperse the "unruly elements who smashed up certain things" at the building which is used for processing finger- prints, a police official said.

Crowds also set fire to a police jeep outside the Cinnamons Gardens police station in the city's residential area while mourners stoned police vehicles near Athulathmudali's residence, witnesses said.

The sporadic violence came as heavily armed police and anti-riot squads took up positions here as mourners prepared to cremate Athulathmudali at the main Colombo General Cemetery.

City police stations were reinforced with more than 2,000 constables and dozens of riot squads as hundreds of thousands of people gathered here for the funeral of Athulathmudali who was shot dead Friday, officials.

"We have deployed our people in strength. There will be no trouble," Deputy Inspector General of police Amarasena Rajapakse told reporters, dismissing reports in the state-run press that there could be rioting.

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe said the Army would be in charge of security at the cemetery where Athulathmudali was being cremated according to Buddhist rites.

State media have warned that remnants of a crushed anti- government Sinhalese group called the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] might instigate violence at Athulathmudali's funeral. Hundreds of thousands of people have already paid respects to the slain leader.

The opposition has blamed the governnment for the murder of Athulathmudali but Colombo has denied the charge. Athulathmudali was sacked from the ruling party in 1991 after a failed bid to impeach President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Curfew Imposed in Colombo

BK2804144593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP)—Security forces clamped an eight hour night curfew in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo after mourners clashed with police at a funeral here of a slain opposition leader, military officials said.

Military officials said the curfew in the capital would go into effect immediately and be lifted at 4.00 a.m. (11:30 GMT). The measure was taken after mourners fought pitched battles with police and torched several vehicles.

Security forces were called in to enforce the curfew, officials said.

Soldiers Patrol Streets

BK2804160493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan capital was brought under an eight-hour night curfew and troops were called in Wednesday as mourners at the funeral here of an assassinated opposition leader clashed with police.

Army soldiers armed with automatic assault rifles patrolled the streets here as hundreds of thousands of men and women dispersed after torching vehicles and attacking buildings in violence centered around the funeral of Lalith Athulathmudali, who was shot dead Friday.

Police kept up a barrage of teargas as Buddhist monks conducted the final rites for Athulathmudali, who was cremated at the Colombo General Cemetery.

The Defence Ministry said there were "several incidents" reported during Athulathmudali's funeral and the curfew from 8:00 p.m. (1430 gmt) to 4:00 a.m. (2330 GMT) was imposed "to prevent any regrouping of criminal elements."

The opposition has blamed the government for the murder of Athulathmudali, but Colombo has denied the charge. Athulathmudali was sacked from the ruling party in 1991 after a failed bid to impeach President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Mobs smashed equipment at the sensitive technical branch of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and a fire engine which rushed to put out a fire there was torched by the crowds, witnesses said.

At least two police vehicles were set on fire by the crowds, who later carried out another arson attack on a Buddhist temple run by a monk associated with the ruling United National Party (UNP), witnesses said.

The temple located along the funeral route and opposite the main international conference hall was set ablaze.

Crowds jeered police and pulled down road signs, traffic signals in the area and an iron railing at the cemetery as they were attacked with teargas.

"People brought down a massive iron railing at the cemetery using their bare hands. Every time a teargas shell was fired there was a stampede but people seemed determined to stay until the funeral was over," a witness said.

Several people were taken away with bleeding injuries after the police teargas attack, witnesses said. Hospital sources said at least 35 people were brought and 11 had to be admitted.

As night fell, mourners were driven out of the area and hundreds of police carrying automatic weapons and anti-riot gear moved in, clearing overturned garbage bins and other obstacles.

Soldiers began patrolling the streets, which were still crowded with people trying to get home after attending the funeral.

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe had told reporters earlier Wednesday that the Ministry of Defence and the police would take care of security arrangements at the funeral.

There were no government figures represented at the funeral and the state media was banned from covering it, organisers said, adding that government media coverage of the event could have led to a violent reaction from the crowds.

City police stations were reinforced overnight with 2,000 constables.

UNHCR To Mediate in LTTE, Government Fighting

BK2804122893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] United Nations officials are scheduled to start discussions with the Sri Lanka Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists with a view to establishing a safe passage to the Jaffna Peninsula through Pooneryn. Senior UN sources said that Geneva headquarters of United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] has authorized its representatives in Colombo to mediate between the government and the terrorists to enable the free movement of supplies and people overland to the Jaffna Peninsula. The UNHCR will begin this week detailed negotiations to establish the basic principles and the practical details of how the safe passage would work. The UNHCR first made move to secure a safe passage from the mainland to the peninsula in December last year. However, the demand to withdraw government forces from the sensitive Pooneryn area as a precondition to terrorist activities prevented the agency from successfully seeking this opening of the passage.

Meanwhile, troops of Operation Sumana killed eight LTTE terrorists at Iralakkulam in the eastern Batticaloa District yesterday. The spokesman for the Joint Operations Command [JOC] told LANKAPUVATH that the crack infantry troops and Army commandos attacking the LTTE in the Thoppigala jungles had also recovered five automatic weapons, a submachine gun, two T-56 and two T-81 rifles. [passage omitted]

Twenty LTTE terrorists were killed by troops of Operation Sumana, two at Iralakkulam in the Thoppigala jungles in the Batticaloa on Tuesday. A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that the crack Army commandos and infantry troops lay in wait for about 50 LTTE cadres who had come to recover the remaining bodies of dead terrorists who were killed by troops on Monday at the same spot. The JOC spokesman said troops also recovered three guns.